

Wild

AUSTRALIA'S WILDERNESS ADVENTURE MAGAZINE

www.wild.com.au



GEAR SURVEYS

Down
Sleeping-bags
Lightweight
Meals

TRACK NOTES

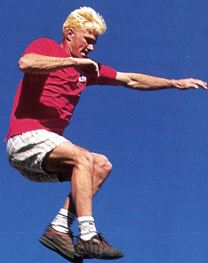
Mt Jagungal
Bogong
High Plains

Victorian Alps
ski-touring

Federation
Peak's pioneer

GREAT WALKS

Tasmania's
Overland Track
Ettrema Gorge
Trekking
Pakistan



ISSN 1030-469X



9 771030 469006

Winter
(July–September) 2001, no. 81
\$7.99* incl GST

Print Post Approved PP342046/00001



This is



Mountain Designs!

At Mountain Designs we understand that you need to be in total comfort for maximum performance and enjoyment. Total comfort is now redefined with the union of Gore-Tex® XCR™ fabric and our high performance designs.

AquaZip External Pockets
Quick stash pockets with increased water resistance.

AquaZip Pit-zip
Streamline vents regulate comfort.

SealFLEX Cuffs
Flexible cuff design allowing a firm but comfortable seal

The Alto
The ultimate above-the-snowline jacket for extreme conditions.

Arc Hood
Extended articulation with insulated collar.

Chinsulator
Protection from a cold zip against your chin.

Gore-Tex® XCR Fabrics
On average, 25% more breathable than "classic" Gore-Tex® garments.

Alppettes
Our well trusted Alppettes just got better! Alpine enthusiasts across the world rely on these pants.

Bib 'n Brace and Belt
Comfortable adjustment with precision fit.

Seat and Knees
Reinforced drop-seat feature and knee pockets to add padding.

Powder Cuffs and Full Length Zips
A firm seal at the ankle prevents unwanted snow.

At Mountain Designs quality and end-use design criteria has always been our focus. Many Mountain Guides, Ski Patrollers, Rescue Services and Parks & Wildlife Officers rely on Mountain Designs products.

The **NEW** range of Mountain Designs Gore-Tex® XCR™ outerwear garments give you maximum performance with increased breathability.

eXtend your Comfort Range... the best outerwear in the world just got better!



Layering Principle
Designed to integrate many winter layers of clothing for total comfort



Multiple Articulation Zones
Layers function as one without compromising the body's natural ability to move freely.

Comfort - Quality - Performance



Available only at these Mountain Designs stores:

Australia: Adelaide, Albury, Armidale, Brisbane, Bunbury, Burnie, Canberra, Chatswood, Claremont, Collingwood, Devonport, Fortitude Valley, Fremantle, Geelong, Hawthorn, Hobart, Katoomba, Launceston, Melbourne, Newcastle, Perth, Sydney, Sydney Gowings, Traralgon

www.mountaindesigns.com



Pack small
Travel light
Sleep warm



SNUGPAK is the name of the best-selling UK-made synthetic sleeping-bags in Europe. Now these super-light, high-performance and exceptionally warm bags are available in Australia.

From a choice of eight models on the Australian market is the **SNUGPAK 'Merlin' Softie 3** selling for \$308. It weighs approx 750 g and compresses so small that it fits on the palm of your hand, yet can keep you snug and warm down to an extreme 0°C; so important for travellers who need to pack light and small.

The secret is a unique filling with the warmth of down but, unlike down, it is machine washable, quick drying and with the ability to keep you warm even when wet! Unlike traditional bags, which have to be quilted to keep the filling in place and always have some degree of heat loss at every quilting line, **SNUGPAK** bags are 'profiled' requiring no stitching

through the filling, so there are no cold spots around the circumference of the bag.

The inner lining is the world renowned, breathable Pertex™, with properties similar to human skin, allowing perspiration out, but preventing moisture coming in. The outer is Para-Tex, a high-performance man-made, rip-stop, parachute silk with the luxuriously soft and slippery feel of real silk and no loss of strength in the finished bag. The ground liner of Snugpak bags is deliberately made from black, heat-absorbing Para-Tex. This allows a wet bag to dry in minutes when exposed to warm sunlight.

Another plus is the unique lightweight and breathable 'ReflectaTherm'™ metalised barrier (derived from aerospace technology) that reflects and retains body warmth, providing at least 15% more warmth with negligible weight/pack implications.

Available from leading outdoors adventure shops.
For your nearest stockist and a free illustrated catalogue, contact the Australian distributor,
Macson Trading Company Pty Ltd: tel (03) 9489 9766, fax (03) 9481 5368,
email: info@macson.com.au or visit www.snugpak.com

Beware of inferior imitations made from non-breathable fabrics!

Departments

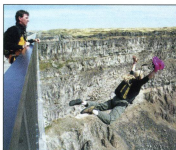
5 Editorial

Tiger walker under attack!

11 Wildfire

Letters to the Editor

17 Info



BASEjumping Australians in Utah and beyond

19 Wild Diary

What's on, and when

36 Folio



Nepal through the lens of Matt Darby

54 Track Notes



Mt Jagungal—the peak at the heart of the Kosciuszko National Park, by Trevor Lewis

60 Track Notes



A classic Bogong High Plains circuit, by Stephen Curtain

65 Gear Survey 1

Down sleeping-bags, by Stephen Curtain



71 Gear Survey 2



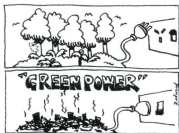
Lightweight meals, by Michael Hampton

77 Equipment

Go wild and woolly



79 Green Pages

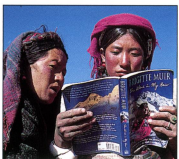


Do you know what you're getting when you buy 'green power'?

83 Reviews

From the *Ice Trek* controversy to balmy New South Wales walking guides

88 Wild Shot



Brigitte gets the once-over from the experts

Wild
MAGAZINE

Established 1981

Winter
(July–September)
2001,
issue 81
\$7.99*

* Maximum Australian recommended retail price only

Cover Justin Clark
getting some big
air, Castle Hill,
New Zealand.
Clark collection

WARNING

The activities covered in this magazine are dangerous. Undertaking them without proper training, experience, skill, regard to safety, and equipment could result in serious injury or death.



Foundation member of

GO THE OUTDOORS
CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

The Outdoors Industry
Giving Back to the Outdoors

Features

20 **The Overland Track in Winter**

It takes more than an earthquake and an avalanche to slow down
Monica Chapman



24 **Cradle Mountain the Hard Way**

When being 'feminine' is more trouble than it's worth,
by *Robyn Cooper*

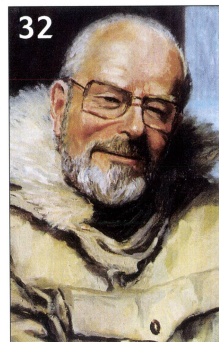
26 **There Are Many Peaks, My Friend**

Trekking in the Karakoram is not for the faint-hearted,
by *Andrew Gregory*



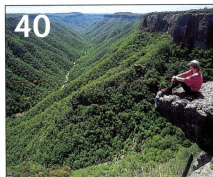
32 **John Mayston Béchervaise**

Brian Walters profiles an Australian outdoors legend



40 **Ettrema Gorge and Beyond**

A New South Wales bushwalk with a bit more of everything than anyone bargained for,
by *Sven Klinge*



46 **Ski-touring the Victorian Alps**

By *Anthony and James Brown*

Where to go

Scott Edwards reviews the playgrounds of Victorian skiing



We don't just **sell** boots, we **fit** them!

Wild told you

See walking-boot survey, Wild no 28, 1988, pages 61-65

“While conducting this survey, I noticed distinct differences between shops. Ajays Snow Country Sports at Heathmont in Melbourne took a particularly thorough line. Staff measure customers' feet with a sizing gauge, which I hadn't seen since being fitted for school shoes. Once this is done, they make a visual assessment, and are then able to recommend particular boots which would fit the customer well. In fact, they are so confident of their fitting, they offer a 'money back-fit guarantee'.”

“Unfortunately, not all shops are so progressive. I couldn't help but wonder whether something as difficult as matching feet to boots should be left in the hands of untrained shop staff.”

**Great equipment for bushwalking, skiing, trekking,
travelling and climbing. Let **Ajays** and now **EMC** help
you to make the right decision.**

ajays
SNOW COUNTRY SPORTS

115 Canterbury Road, Heathmont, Vic 3135.
Phone: (03) 9720 4647. Fax: (03) 9720 2538.
Email: ajays@smart.net.au

EMC
Eastern Mountain Centre
654b Glenferrie Road,
Hawthorn, Vic 3122.
Phone: (03) 9818 1544
Fax: (03) 9818 1545
Email: emc@smart.net.au



An assault on outdoors records

Australia's 'tiger walker' extraordinaire under attack

PETER TRESEDER ISN'T A STRANGER TO WILD readers. For much of *Wild's* 20-year history his innumerable and extraordinary endurance feats (mostly done alone) have been reported in detail in its pages, and have left readers gasping. Well-known Australian wilderness historian Klaus Hueneker profiled him in *Wild* no 24, and leading Australian outdoors writer Quentin Chester also profiled him in *Wild* no 51. In the early days it is unlikely that his fame extended beyond *Wild* readers, and a relatively small number of Sydney bushwalkers—many of his early record-breaking feats took place in their 'backyard', the Blue Mountains. In recent years Treseder has come to the attention of the general public through extensive publicity of his far-ranging exploits—from places as diverse as Borneo and the South Pole—and his motivational lectures. Treseder became a sought-after public speaker; his many speaking venues included two appearances at Escalade, the now-defunct climbing festival held every two years in the Blue Mountains, New South Wales. Now something of a public figure, Treseder was awarded the Order of Australia (OAM) in 1992; he has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for charity, is the subject of a biography and has enjoyed the public support of the Prime Minister.

All this changed with the publication of the May 2001 issue of *Inside Sport* magazine. Once you get past the mountainous bosoms of the cover girl, the heading beside her barely covered crutch proclaims: 'THE FRAUD.' How Australia's leading 'adventurer' hoodwinked a nation.' The article in question, under the byline of *Inside Sport's* Deputy Editor Graem Sims, examines a number of Peter Treseder's claims and concludes that he is 'a fraud who has hoodwinked a nation'. If that is the case, you can include me and other outdoors people who have worked at *Wild* over the years among the 'hoodwinked'. Presumably also *Australian Geographic* magazine, which three times has awarded him its Spirit of Adventure Silver Medal, along with the rest of the nation.

What is the basis of *Inside Sport's* claim? While acknowledging that Treseder is an extraordinary Australian who has undoubtedly performed many endurance feats in the company of others, it argues that many of his solo exploits are so extreme as to be incredible. Treseder's claim to have run the entire length of the Great Dividing Range from Cape York, Queensland, to Wilsons Promontory, Victoria, in three stages, in a total travel time of 41 days, comes in for particularly detailed scrutiny. It concludes that the claim is so unlikely (by comparison with fully supported ultra-distance runs on tracks and roads) as to be ludicrous.

Treseder's claimed solo rescue of a young woman in Claustal Canyon, in the Blue Moun-

tains, is examined in detail and ridiculed as being impossible (for him and for her; *Inside Sport* argues that she could not have survived the conditions that search-and-rescue expert Treseder describes). Treseder's claim that it was raining at the time is also refuted by *Inside Sport*, which states that this is not supported by an examination of meteorology records. But most outdoors people will have had experiences of extremely localised rainfall, which may not have been registered by the Bureau of Meteorology.

'Once you get past the mountainous bosoms of the cover girl, the heading beside her barely covered crutch proclaims: "THE FRAUD..."'

The article quotes well-known author Richard Flanagan as saying that he believes Treseder's claim to have rafted Tasmania's Franklin River in 26 hours and 4 minutes in a 'rubber ducky' to be physically impossible. (*Inside Sport* reports that Flanagan has descended the river 40 times, including a descent by kayak in a record 19 hours' paddling time.) But is this proof? Was it not considered a few weeks ago that the survival of Ben Maloney in the Tasmanian wilderness for 37 days, most of them without food, was also 'impossible'?

If some of Treseder's solo exploits are such patent nonsense as *Inside Sport* claims, why have they taken so long to be exposed, and how was someone not widely recognised as an authority in Australian wilderness activities, such as *Inside Sport's* Deputy Editor, able to ask all the right questions, then research and verify the answers? To respond to the second question first: he didn't. The article was based on research initially done (and offered to *Inside Sport*) by Lucas Trihey, the organiser of Escalade, the festival referred to above, at which Treseder was a guest speaker on two occasions. After Treseder's second Escalade appearance he was to be paid a fee of about \$150. It was subsequently agreed that Trihey would write an article about Treseder in lieu of this payment. The article did not appear. Trihey says that this was because it was a 'very loose arrangement', which was 'left up in the air' and not followed up, and that Treseder had said that remuneration was not a priority for him.

The answer to the first question is more complex. First, there is a long tradition of taking outdoors people at their word when they report their achievements. Unless there are

specific reasons to doubt them, claims are not normally questioned. Nor has history often shown reason to do so. Secondly, many of Treseder's feats are hard to evaluate unless you have knowledge of the terrain involved and make a detailed study of each claim. We don't recall receiving serious questions about Treseder's feats reported in *Wild*—with only two exceptions. Both were from credible and knowledgeable south-east Queensland-based outdoors people. They questioned Treseder's claims with regard to one or two runs in that

region, wondering whether it was possible to do what Treseder asserted in the time he claimed, and because of perceived vagueness and inconsistencies in Treseder's accounts of the undertakings when he was questioned about them. Neither was prepared to air these doubts publicly. One of them wrote to us at the time—six years ago—enclosing a letter he'd written to Treseder raising doubts, and asking questions, about two of Treseder's runs in south-east Queensland. His letter to us concludes: 'This

letter to you is not to suggest that you take action in any way because...it boils down to my word against Peter's. I am simply writing to you with information...which may have implications in the future.' We have no record of having received further information on the matter over the next six years. The correspondent quoted above has written to us since the publication of the *Inside Sport* article criticising *Wild* for publishing reports from Treseder 'without any attempt at validation'. In the absence of any questioning—apart from that noted earlier; and in that case because we did not hear anything further in six years, it was not considered necessary to attempt such validation. (Remember, conclusive proof that some of Treseder's claims have been false is yet to be forthcoming.) Thirdly, and most importantly, Treseder has many extraordinary achievements to his name that can be verified—a fact acknowledged by *Inside Sport*.

The *Inside Sport* article raises a number of valid questions and some serious doubts, but is short on substantiation. Where the serious claim of fraud is made, one would expect at least some direct proof. However, I agree that some of the doubts raised call for an explanation from Treseder. Considering the subject in question (solo adventures in remote locations), it is necessary to obtain proof—however difficult that may be—before dismissing Treseder's claims. Even then, great care would have to be taken not to generalise unfairly or recklessly about other Treseder claims for which no such adequate proof is obtained. Two observations might be made: First, some of Treseder's solo records, including the Cape York to Wilsons Promontory run, had ample support from personnel, not referred to in

Get to grips with Nikwax GloveProof

Keeping
your hands
DRY and WARM!



PHOTO COURTESY OF
ROSS WOODHALL AT HEADWORK

Having cold hands not only ruins a day on the slopes but can also be dangerous.

Wet gloves no longer insulate and can lose their grip - preventing you from easily tightening bindings and boot buckles.

Nikwax GloveProof has been specially formulated to enhance grip in wet conditions - so you won't lose your grip on ski- & trekking poles or ice axes.

A WaterBased treatment which adds and restores water repellency to all types of leather- or fabric gloves and overmitts. Ideal for use on gloves with waterproof, breathable liners such as Gore-Tex®.

Easily applied with the sponge applicator to wet ski and snowboard gloves, straight after, or even during, a day on the slopes.

Easily packed, our handy bottles are also safe to take on a plane. Nikwax WaterBased products are environmentally friendly without harmful or flammable solvents and propellants.

NIKWAX
LEAD BY INNOVATION

For more information please contact us at:

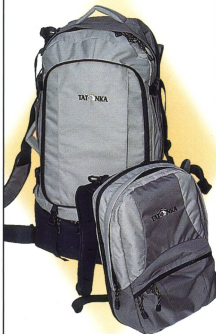
**Outdoor Survival Australia,
12 Leah Grove,
Carrum Downs VIC 3201
Ph 03 9775 1916
www.outdoorsurvival.com.au**

Gore-Tex is a registered trademark of W.L. Gore & Associates.



TATANKA® Zanzibar

The all-purpose
travel pack



Tatonka's versatile new Zanzibar has the advantages of a suitcase and the comfort and ease of a trekking rucksack. Features include:

- generously padded shoulder-straps and hip-belt
- a variety of carrying possibilities
- quick packing and unpacking like a suitcase
- a 'zip-away' harness system (it can be carried like a suitcase)
- a detachable day pack
- a removable divider between the main compartments
- multiple internal pockets and mesh dividers

Available in medium and large sizes.

For more information, contact:
Outdoor Survival Australia Pty Ltd
Tel: (03) 9775 1916
Fax: (03) 9775 1917
Email: info@outdoorsurvival.com.au
Or visit our Web site:
www.outdoorsurvival.com.au

pacsafe

What's your gear worth?



- Protects backpack/luggage in airport transit
- Locks backpack/luggage to secure fixture
- Deters theft, pilfering and tampering
- Prevents slashing from knives (100% slashproof)
- Comes with padlock

**Available from all
good outdoors stores**



pacsafe
Street-smart travel security

For more information, contact
Outdoor Survival Australia Pty Ltd
Tel: 03 9775 1916 Fax: 03 9775 1917
Email: info@outdoorsurvival.com.au

www.outdoorsurvival.com.au

Wild

Managing Director & Managing Editor

Chris Baxter

Editor Lucy Monie

Editorial Coordinator Sarah Berry

Sub-editor Mary Hart

Advertising Emma Webb

Manager Peta Coats

Subscriptions Tony Cox

Accounts Fiona Sanders

Design & production Bruce Golden
Consultants Michael Collicie, Brian Walters

Contributing Editors

Stephen Burton Caving

John Chapman Track notes

Stephen Garnett Natural history

Michael Hampton Cross-country skiing

Special Advisers

Andrew Cox, Geoff Law,

Roger Lembit, David Noble

Publisher Wild Publications Pty Ltd

ABN 42 006 748 938

Printing York Press Pty Ltd

Colour reproduction Scanagraphics Pty Ltd

Distribution Gordon and Gotch

Australia Pty Ltd

Subscription rates are currently \$31.95 for one year (four issues), \$57.20 for two years, or \$82.50 for three years, to addresses in Australia. For overseas addresses, the rates are \$56.95, \$108.00, and \$159.00, respectively. When moving, advise us immediately of your new and old addresses to avoid lost or delayed copies. Please also send your address sheet received with a copy of *Wild*.

Advertising rates are available on request.

Copy deadlines (advertising and editorial):

8 October (summer issue), 15 January

(autumn), 15 April (winter), 15 July (spring).

See below for publication dates.

Contributions, preferably well illustrated with slides, are welcome. *Guidelines for Contributors* are available on receipt of a stamped, addressed, 'business-size' envelope. Whenever possible, written submissions should be supplied on a three-and-a-half-inch floppy disk in either PC or Mac format. Please specify which format, program and version number. Hard copy should also be supplied. If not on disk, submissions should be typed, double-spaced, on one side of sheets of A4 paper.

Please ensure that submissions are accompanied by an envelope and sufficient postage. Names and addresses should be written on disks, manuscripts and photos. While every care is taken, no responsibility is accepted for material submitted. Articles represent the views of the authors, and not necessarily those of the publisher.

Editorial, advertising, subscription, distribution and general correspondence to:
Wild Publications Pty Ltd,
PO Box 415, Prahran, Vic 3181, Australia.
Phone (03) 9826 8482
Fax (03) 9826 3787
Email wild@wild.com.au


Web site <http://www.wild.com.au>

Wild is published quarterly in the middle of the month before cover date (cover dates: January–March, April–June, July–September, October–December) by Wild Publications Pty Ltd. The *Wild* logo (ISSN 1030-469X) is registered as a trade mark, and the use of the name is prohibited. All material copyright 2001 Wild Publications Pty Ltd. All rights reserved. No part of the contents of this publication may be reproduced without first obtaining the written consent of the publisher. *Wild* attempts to verify advertising, track notes, route descriptions, maps and other information, but cannot be held responsible for erroneous, incomplete or misleading material.

Wild is printed on Regent paper, which has been recycled and oxygen bleached. The cover has a water-based varnish (not an environmentally detrimental UV or plastic finish).

the *Inside Sport* article, which might assist in the verification of Treseder's records. Secondly, the New South Wales outdoors community appears to be swinging in behind Treseder in a remarkable show of confidence.

Tall poppies have no shortage of detractors, and in his chosen field Treseder stands alone. Either way he cannot win. If some of the claims against him are proven he will not only be personally disgraced and lose his ability to raise both sponsorship for future adventures and money for charity, but all his solo records—including those in respect of which there is no reasonable doubt—are likely to be discredited. It would not be easy for

Treseder to satisfy his critics about the validity of all his claimed solo records. As happened in the case of the brilliant Slovenian mountaineer Tomo Cesen, in the absence of hard and fast evidence, some mud will stick and he may fade gradually from view, into a life of virtual exile in a shadowy 'middle kingdom' between unquestioned acceptance and adulation on the one hand, and public disgrace on the other, but closer to the latter. Either way, while it is obviously a serious setback for Treseder, it is scarcely less so for Australian wilderness adventure activities generally. 

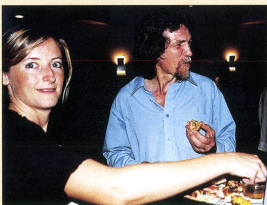
Chris Baxter

Wild bash

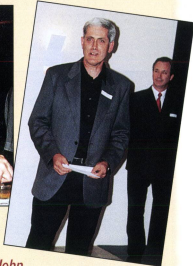
Wild staff and friends gathered in Melbourne on 15 March to help Tim Macartney-Snape launch the 20th anniversary special issue. Here are a few snaps of the happy throng. All photos Rosie Johnson collection.



Above, party animals: Lucy Monie (incoming Editor), left, Greg Caire (contributor), Emma Webb (Advertising Manager), Michael Hampton (Contributing Editor), and Naomi Peters (outgoing Editor).



Above, 'I don't mind if I do,' says Editorial Coordinator Rosie Johnson, left. 'Sure beats bush tucker,' says Contributing Editor John Chapman. **Right**, Managing Editor Chris Baxter rouses the troops while fellow Wild Director, Brian Walters, nods off in the background.



You want
Thermal
Activewear?
We've got it!



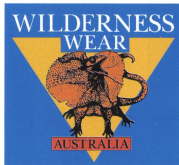
POLYPROPYLENE
NEW
CHLOROFIBRE
NEW
SUPERFINE WOOL
NEW
THERMASTAT™

POWER DRY™

Australia's Best Range of
Thermal Activewear...

*OH YES AND IT'S
AUSTRALIAN MADE.*

Only available at outdoor
speciality stores.



For free colour catalogue contact
Wilderness Wear Pty Ltd
Ph (03) 9460 7077 Fax: (03) 9462 1843
Internet: www.wildernesswear.com.au
email: info@wildernesswear.com.au

Food, water, KTI mini SAT-ALERT

The essentials when you take a hike,
go bush, set sail, take off!

When you go flying, hiking, boating, skiing or four-wheel driving, be really prepared. Insist on packing the new KTI mini sat-alert RB3 emergency beacon. Once simply activated, it transmits continuously for up to four days, ensuring your signal is received by the emergency services. Designed, manufactured and supported in Australia, the unit is Australia's first microprocessor-controlled, pocket-sized beacon transmitting on both 121.5 and 243 MHz international distress frequencies simultaneously. The new optional strobe light can be seen at night for distances of more than four kilometres. It is buoyant, and waterproof to a depth greater than three metres. Unlike other units, the batteries are fully replaceable. This is not a throw-away. KTI mini sat-alert is designed to the personal EPIRB requirements of AS/NZS 4330:2000 with approvals from the Australian Communications Authority and approved by CASA to the portable E.L.T. requirements of CAR252A.



Weight: 215 grams.
Dimensions 11 x 8 x 3.8 cm.
Warranty: 5 years parts and labour.

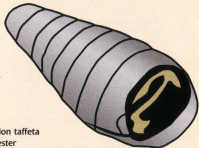
**KINETIC TECHNOLOGY
INTERNATIONAL PTY LTD** AIN 10 056 419 800
1 Kembla Street, Cheltenham East, Vic 3192
• Phone (03) 9583 9566 • Fax (03) 9583 9805
• Email info@kti.com.au • Internet www.kti.com.au
Dealer enquiries welcome.



**Ruggedness,
Value and
Canny Design**
**Rucksacks, Tents,
Sleeping-bags**

ULTRALITE

The Ultralite is the compact, light, synthetic sleeping-bag on the market. It uses Du Pont's Thermolite Micro fibres, and is targeted at the bushwalker, mountain marathon competitor, cyclist or traveller who requires a product that is lightweight and compact.



Fabric:

Outer 40D 240T Ripstop nylon taffeta
Inner Soft-hand Micro polyester

| Ultralite model | 700 | 900 | 1100 | 1300 |
|--------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Total weight (kg): | 0.90 | 1.10 | 1.40 | 1.55 |
| Fill weight (gm/m²): | 1 x 100 | 2 x 100 top 1 x 100 bottom | 2 x 150 top 1 x 100 bottom | 2 x 175 top 1 x 150 bottom |
| Temp rating (°C): | 0 | -5 | -10 | -12 |
| Comfort rating: | +25 to +5 | +25 to 0 | +15 to -5 | +25 to -8 |
| Length (cm): | 225 | 225 | 225 | 225 |
| Chest width (cm): | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 |
| Foot width (cm): | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 |
| Pack size (cm) L x diam: | 22 x 14 | 27 x 16 | 28 x 16 | 29 x 18 |

Anasco Pty Ltd, 11b Northland Home Centre, Gower Street, Preston, Vic 3072
Phone: 1800 333 645 Fax: (03) 9471 1600 Email: ansco@ansco.com.au

In the 1950s Paddy Pallin rucksacks were legendary among Australian bushwalkers for their quality, comfort and durability.

Some things never change.



70th Anniversary Paddy Pallin

The new Paddy Pallin rucksacks. Still made in Australia for Australian conditions.

Call for a free catalogue: 1 800 805 398

STORE LOCATIONS | Sydney 507 Kent St | Miranda 527 Kingsway | Parramatta 74 Macquarie St
Katoomba 166b Katoomba St | Canberra 11 Lonsdale St, Braddon | Jervis Bay 5/62 Owen St, Huskisson
Jindabyne Kosciuszko Rd | Melbourne 360 Little Bourke St | Ringwood 88 Maroondah Hwy
Box Hill 8 Market St | Adelaide 228 Rundle St | Hobart 76 Elizabeth St | Launceston 110 George St
Fortitude Valley 138 Wickham St | Perth 884 Hay St | Mail Order Phone 1 800 805 398

Paddy Pallin



They've experienced the difference

"Through 20,000km of cycling, climbing Europe's highest peaks and manhauling in the Arctic winter, Zamberlan boots have always been as steady and reliable as the ground under my feet"

Chris Hatherly - Australian Young Adventurer of the Year

"Support, comfort and toughness is a must for my boots as I use my feet to braille the trails. Zamberlan boots are the best of the best"

Ched Towns - Blind mountain trekker and climber

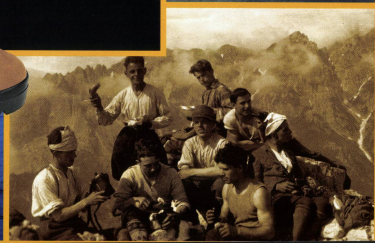
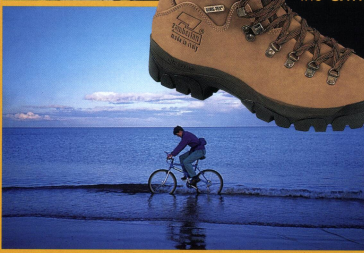
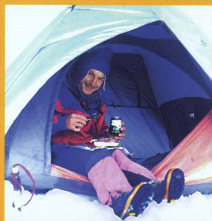
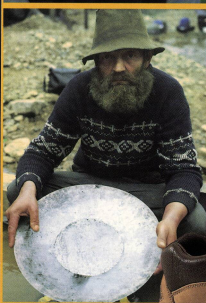
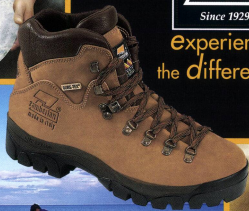
"The London to Beijing Cycling and Mountaineering expedition takes me from Europe to Asia, by bicycle and on foot. My equipment must last to the very end. Zamberlan boots were my only option"

Tim Cope - Expedition Member

*Zamberlan boots are available
worldwide.*



experience
the difference®



It's party time!

Readers celebrate 20 years of *Wild*

CONGRATULATIONS! I THINK IT'S FANTASTIC that you and your team have delivered two decades of high-quality news, features and insight into the real world. You've been an inspiration to both Dick Smith and myself since even before the birth of *Australian Geographic*. I'll never forget the honest and forthright advice that you gave us in those embryonic days and since then we have often felt that we've been brothers-in-arms, fighting against the pap of mainstream magazine content.

I've always seen *Wild* as a magazine with a soul. You've been clear in your environmental philosophy, your spirit of adventure and your unwavering understanding that to make it all work, you've got to be running a profitable enterprise... Fan-bloody-tastic!

Howard Whelan
Publisher/Editor in Chief
Australian Geographic
(by email)

...It's a tribute to *Wild*'s dedicated management and staff that *Wild* is still going strong after 20 years—no mean feat in a country where magazines come and go all the time. I'm a regular *Wild* reader myself and always enjoy it.

Congratulations on the great standard you have set and may you continue to be successful.

Dick Smith
Terrey Hills, NSW

Thank you for your letter received today concerning our 20 years of subscription to *Wild*. Not only have we maintained our subscription since the original gift from a librarian sister but we still have every one of them—faithfully packed and transported through several moves from house to house. Most are now well read and a little ragged but they are still occasionally brought out from the back of the cupboard in search of a reference or topic.

Although family and work commitments do not afford the availability of time for the bush that we had 20 years ago, we have maintained the subscription both on account of the quality and interest of the magazine, and fundamental support for the concept you have espoused.

Please accept our long overdue acknowledgment of the great efforts of you, your team and contributors and supporters. You can continue to rely on the support of our subscription for a long time to come.

Jim and Mary Shaw
(by email)

...Congratulations on 20 great years of *Wild*...*Wild* provides us all with hours of pleasure and dreaming. We relive all the wonderful wild places through others' experiences... I particularly enjoyed your reflective articles in the anniversary issue of *Wild* about production and advertisements. We also identify with your passion about conserving our declining forests and wild places in general, so keep up the standards you have in place, they give *Wild* the quality edge and allow us, the readers, to feel we share some of the contribution you make to this great country. We look forward to another decade or two of *Wild*.

Jen Wilkinson
(by email)

possibly Paddy Pallin, and I thought this is exactly what I want! Before that we had relied on club newsletters and product information brochures from manufacturers to get information on bushwalking... The articles, 'Doing the Dash' and 'Across the Alps' in *Wild* no 80 are inspirational.

Martin Bouman
Ermington, NSW

...It has certainly been interesting to see the development of the magazine over the years. I bushwalk when I can and love it—I wish I could do more. *Wild* makes up for it in many ways! I congratulate you on the success of the magazine—well and truly deserved.

All the best and happy 20th!
Michael Loughlin
(by email)

...Please have a drink on my behalf to toast you all and thanks to everyone for being so supportive of the East Gippsland forests.

Well done, *Wild*!

Jill Redwood
(by email)

Congratulations on reaching your 20th anniversary of *Wild*. Issue 80 is fantastic indeed!

We have thoroughly enjoyed every article in it, particularly 'Tyronne Thomas' with whom we walked many times when members of the Melbourne Bushwalkers in the 1970s...

Barbara Bryan
(by email)

What a magazine!

What can I say that hasn't been said dozens of times by other readers? Your mag is a 'must have' for anyone even remotely interested in bushwalking... I couldn't do without my regular hit of *Wild*!

Peter Ball
(by email)

Go for it

...I wish to comment on the letter from Jeremy Whelan in *Wildfire*, *Wild* no 79 in relation to the Editorial in issue 77... an Editorial is the place to make comment such as that made. After all, an Editorial is not reporting or a research article, it is comment and opinion from the Editor. I believe that someone in a position such as the Editor of *Wild* must make comment such as this, otherwise who is to make the comment?



Thank you for your letter acknowledging 20 years continuous subscription to *Wild*... It is pleasing that a successful publishing venture like *Wild* has been able to maintain its independence for 20 years and that the highest standards set in past years seem to be surpassed with each new issue.

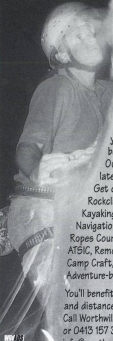
I am pleased to enclose my subscription renewal for another three years. We hope that by God's grace we will still be subscribers when the 40th anniversary edition is published.

Bruce Bartlett
Macgregor, ACT

I remember seeing advertising for the first *Wild* in one of Sydney's camping stores,

W O R T H W I L D

Professional qualifications for Outdoor Leaders
recognition of your current skills



NATIONALLY RECOGNISED TRAINING

We will recognise your current skills as credits towards your qualification (RPL) and assist you to gain any additional skills that you might need to become qualified. We train Outdoor Leaders to the latest National Standard.

Get qualified in Abseiling, Rockclimbing, Canoeing, Kayaking, Bushwalking, Navigation, Mountain Biking & Ropes Courses. Plus electives in AT&IC, Remote Operations, 4WD & Camp Craft, Instructional skills and Adventure-based counselling.

You'll benefit from our flexible delivery and distance education strategies. Call Worthwild on (07) 3833 4330 or 0413 157 358 or email: info@worthwild.com.au

Kakadu - Kimberley - Red Centre

Choose Life Now!



You are going to be dead for a long time later.

Once upon a time, Australia had a wonderful lifestyle. That lifestyle is disappearing because we are letting it go. In 1999, only 17% of Australians took their full holiday entitlement. What are we coming to?

Do you love your job so much that you can't bear to take time off? How many people reach the end of their lives regretting the time spent with family and friends, regretting the time they spent doing things they really enjoyed, regretting not having spent enough time working?

Have a holiday! Whether you have your holiday with Willis's Walkabouts, someone else, travelling on your own or even just relaxing at home, have a holiday.

You deserve it.

www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au

**Willis's Walkabouts 12 Carrington Street
Millner NT 0810 Email walkabout@ais.net.au**

Phone: (08) 8985 2134 Fax: (08) 8985 2355




Thermals that last a lifetime...

THERMA DRY

POLYPROPYLENE


thermalwear with a reputation of very good quality, that may well outlive the wearer!

THERMA DRY is available in a range of thermals, socks, gloves and balaclavas.



Meraklon
polypropylene fibre

STOCKIST ENQUIRIES
ANSCO PTY LTD, Melbourne
Phone 03-9-471 1500
Fax 03-9-471 1600
Email: ansco@ansco.com.au
Web: www.wellf.co.nz



ABSEILING CANYONING ROCKCLIMBING ICE CLIMBING MOUNTAINEERING



Courses • Tours • Expeditions

**Australia's Most
Experienced
Instructing Team**

**Technical
Mountaineering
Course
Langtang, Nepal
September 2001
3 Peaks
Khumbu
October 2001**

**Australian School of
Mountaineering
166 Katoomba Street
Katoomba NSW 2780
Tel: 02 4782 2014
Fax: 02 4782 5787
email: asm@pnc.com.au
www.asmguides.com**

Wild is much more than a bushwalking magazine... it is about stimulating the imagination and adventurous spirit in us. The magazine takes us to South Georgia, Nepal and the deserts, and gives us a taste of what many will never get a chance to do. It also gives us the nuts and bolts to local bushwalks. If people do not speak out, then who will protect our wild areas for us, for our children and grandchildren?

Go for it, Chris Baxter.

Chris Macfarlane
(by email)

Jeremy Whelan's response (*Wildfire*, *Wild* no 79) to Chris Baxter's Editorial is so typical of what's wrong with the 'scared' element among our 'gentle' people... These cravens pretending to be 'sensible' and 'balanced' have no real conception of the absolute bastards we activists and volunteers are up against... If Jeremy Whelan had any bottle whatever then he would get out in a part of our bush that's about to be devastated and raped by some bloated pig of a 'developer' and then when he got savagely mugged by a hired moronic gang of red-neck vandal muggers perhaps he might wax lyrical!

Most likely he would scamper off to some 'safe' place with nice paths, toilets, fast-food huts, water spigots and concrete car parks and litter bins... Personally I want to stir shit out of the bastards... I say 'Go for it, Baxter baby'. In my 12 years as a Ranger and 25 as a photo-journalist, being nice never got any results but loud stirring and...making fence sitters' feel uncomfortable... does get some concessions... Jeremy you [*lexiptive deleted!* Editor] get out there and holler.

Barry Turner
Blairgowrie, Vic

Ansett hits the bottle

I write this letter to inform fellow bushwalkers of problems they may encounter when travelling by air to holiday destinations. I was one of a party of walkers travelling to Tasmania to do the South Coast Track walk from Melaleuca to Cockle Creek. Being well aware of the restriction of carrying fuel on board passenger aircraft we had all made sure our stoves and fuel bottles were completely dry of fuel and had made arrangements to purchase fuel from a stockpile at Melaleuca.

On checking in our rucksacks for our flight to Hobart on Ansett Airlines we were questioned as to whether we were carrying stoves. We were informed that the only way we could take this equipment was to have the items shipped as freight (even though the items were completely dry of fuel). This was going to cost an extra \$50 and special packaging. Because there was not enough time to get the items down to the freight terminal we ended up having to throw the Trangia burners and fuel containers in the bin and board the flight. As the walk was not possible without stoves (fires not being permitted at camp-sites) we then had to

madly rush into Hobart to buy new burners and bottles before connecting with our flight to Melaleuca.

All the other airlines that I contacted...do allow carriage of these items in your rucksack as long as they are completely dry. Some recommend that you blow the containers and burners with compressed air from a service station or perhaps a more practical method would be to leave the empty items overnight in front of a central-heating duct with the lids off...

Barney Wursthorn
Pahran, Vic

Memory lane

I enjoyed Elaine Chesworth's article on Mumbadah Creek (in *Wild* no 79). I had a six-year stopover in Australia in the 1950s *en route* from the UK to New Zealand and walked regularly. In those days active walkers often belonged to two clubs to get a better trip selection. There were also many private trips. I did Mumbadah with the Rucksack Club in about October 1953. We took a taxi from Blackheath to the Kanangra road... We began the walk at the very head of the creek. I do not remember the waterfalls and gorge as very difficult and not up to the standard of, say, Davies Canyon. We camped just before Harrys (Jenolan) River. Next day we walked to the Cox and up Black Jerries Ridge to the Megalong Valley. We reached Katoomba via Devils Hole at a fairly civilised hour.

I used to belong to the Kamerukas and was president in 1956... The KBC began as the Teacher's College walking club and gradually changed to a more general membership. I still tramp regularly both in New Zealand and overseas and keep in touch with some old Kamerukas. Thanks for the memory.

David Henson
(by email)

We are not alone

I read the first column and a bit of Quentin's 'Risky business' (*Wild* no 80) to my wife. I thought it might help her to understand why I have to do what I do in the bush. Her comment? 'You could have written that yourself.' So much for helping her to understand, she's way ahead of me! As for writing it myself—well, it describes me to a 't' but Quentin has a way with words that's hard to match. As Chris says in his Editorial (in issue 80) 'his extraordinary prose'. It's not just the prose though, is it? His subject matter is spot on... I'm not alone either, am I? I'll bet the majority of *Wild* readers can say the same thing. Great stuff!

Simon Knight
(by email)

Readers' letters are welcome (with sender's full name and address for verification). A selection will be published in this column. Letters of less than 200 words are more likely to be printed. Write to the Editor, *Wild*, PO Box 415, Pahrnan, Vic 3181.

Subscribing to *Wild*

has never been easier...

PHONE: (03) 9826 8483

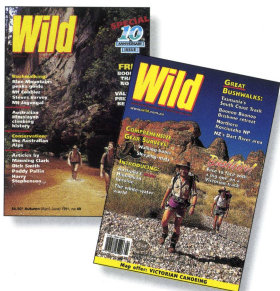
or

ON-LINE: www.wild.com.au



or more attractive!

- ✓ **SAVE** up to \$1.11 on every copy
- ✓ Receive a **FREE WildGUIDE** of your choice
- ✓ Receive either a **FREE Wild poster** of the Viking or Mt Feathertop valued at \$11.20 or a **FREE Wild back issue** of your choice when you subscribe for three years
- ✓ **FREE** home delivery
- ✓ **PROTECTION** against price increases



**Plus
FREE**

DuPont Coolmax® Mentor Global Trekker socks and cotton drill cap valued at \$25...

for every person who mentions this offer when subscribing to *Wild* (while stocks last).



| | |
|---------|------------------------------------|
| 3 years | \$82.50 (\$159 overseas—airmail) |
| 2 years | \$57.20 (\$108 overseas—airmail) |
| 1 year | \$31.95 (\$56.95 overseas—airmail) |

You can also **SUBSCRIBE BY EMAIL** or **MAIL** or by **FAX**—see opposite.

All offers apply to **new and renewing subscribers** and must be **requested when paying** for your order.

Wild is published each March, June, September and December. Subscriptions start with the **next** issue. Allow up to 12 weeks for delivery of your first copy. All offers and prices valid for the duration of the cover date of this issue. For current prices and offers see www.wild.com.au All Australian prices include GST.

Wild THINGS

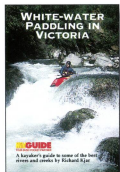
Wild Back Issues

\$7.99 ea (\$13.25 overseas—airmail)

For details of contents of each *Wild* issue, visit

www.wild.com.au/wild/wildback.htm

Issue nos available: 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 42, 43, 47, 53, 54, 55, 57, 64, 65, 66, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79.



WildGUIDES YOUR BUSH POCKET-PARTNERS

\$8.20 ea (\$8.50 overseas—airmail)

Alternative Tasmanian Walks GRAT

Blue Mountains Canyons GRBC

Blue Mountains Walks GRBW

Classic New South Wales Walks GRNW

Classic Tasmanian World Heritage Walks GRCT

Classic Victorian Alpine Walks GRCV

Extended Victorian Alpine Walks GRVA (few remain, some slightly damaged)

Cooking for the Bush GRCB

Getting Started GRCS

Gorge Walks GRGW

Peak Bagging Walks GRPW

Waterfalls Walks GRWF

White-water Paddling in Victoria GRWP



Wild Posters 420 x 297 mm

Unlaminated \$11.20 ea,

(\$14.95 overseas—airmail)

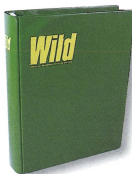
laminated \$15.20 ea

(\$18.55 overseas—airmail)

Cape Woolamai (laminated only)

Mt Feathertop

The Viking



Wild Binders

\$19.95 ea (\$23.95 overseas—airmail)

Holds eight magazines
+ index

Wild Indexes

\$7.75 ea

1981–83 1988–89

1984–85 1990–91

1986–87 1992–93

(Not available for
subsequent issues)



Clear Plastic Covers for WildGUIDES and RockGUIDES

\$2.10 ea (\$2.90 overseas—airmail)

Photocopies of Wild/Rock Articles

\$7.99/article (\$8.55 overseas—airmail)

HOW TO ORDER

- 1 List what you want
- 2 Determine the total cost
- 3 Advise us of your credit card details: (Minimum credit card order \$10)

- Type of card
(Bankcard, MasterCard, Visa)
- Card number
- Card expiry date
- Card holder's name
(please print)
- Signature (for faxed or
mailed orders)
- Date

OR

Enclose cheque or money order
(to Wild Publications Pty Ltd)

- 4 Provide (print if in writing)
name, address (including
postcode) and phone number—
for delivery of order.

- 5 Contact us:

PHONE: (03) 9826 8483

(Bankcard, MasterCard, Visa)

ON-LINE: www.wild.com.au

(Bankcard, MasterCard, Visa)

FAX: (03) 9826 3787

(Bankcard, MasterCard, Visa)

EMAIL: wild@wild.com.au

(Bankcard, MasterCard, Visa)

MAIL: Wild, Reply Paid 415
Wild Publications Pty Ltd
PO Box 415
Pahran Vic 3181
(No postage stamp required)

(Credit card, cheque or money order)



Lexan® Wine Glass & Flute

GSI Lexan® Wine Glasses & flutes are the perfect addition for your next camping trip or picnic. The patent-pending design unscrews at the midpoint of the stem, so the base can be compactly snapped into the bowl for packing and storage. Super lightweight and nearly indestructible, yet elegantly shaped.

Bugaboo™ Teflon®/Aluminium Cook-sets



Diamondback Gripper™ and mesh storage-bag included.

Glacier Stainless Steel™ Cook-sets

Glacier Stainless Steel™ cook-sets are finely crafted culinary pieces for the practising gourmet and are crafted from 18/8 stainless steel. The mirror bright finish looks great! All pieces



act as fry pans. Diamondback gripper and mesh storage-bag included. The five- and seven-piece sets include a bonus nylon mini-spatula.

Espresso...



Treat yourself to an absolutely delicious espresso with these compact little appliances! They are crafted from rugged yet lightweight aluminium. Simply fill the basket with well-ground coffee, add water to valve level and screw the unit shut. Place it on your stove at low heat and within minutes, the steam pipe delivers a flavourful cup of European-style brew. Available in one- and four-cup sizes: red, blue, green or polished.

Or if you prefer to brew great coffee regardless of where you are, by the new Lexan® JavaPress™!

Perfect for camping, backpacking, boats, caravans and car camping, just add boiling water to coffee grounds, let stand for a minute or two and you will have a

perfect cup of fresh coffee. The GSI JavaPress is dishwasher safe and can also be used for preparing tea! Available in two sizes: 280 ml and 925 ml



Lexan®: Lightweight, but Tough!

LEXAN® is the toughest thermo-plastic available...with high impact strength, dimensional stability and temperature

performance from -55°C to +130°C. It's dishwasher- and microwave safe and incredibly lightweight. You can make a complete, convenient setting from our range of two bowls, large plate and knife, fork, spoon and teaspoon.

And they won't burn your fingers! Colours: cutlery - Eggshell or Emerald (bowl), plates and bowls - Smoke or Emerald. Cutlery is available in bulk, or in three- or four-piece sets.



Lexan® Waterproof Utility Boxes



LEXAN® Waterproof Utility Boxes are nearly indestructible, and available in three sizes. They are clear, so you can see what's inside, and have attachment loops to tie them down securely!



Exclusively distributed in Australia by Spelean Pty Ltd
Ph: 1800 634 853
e-mail: gsin@spelean.com.au http://www.spelean.com.au

Fast and Light

The new Primus Himalaya VariFuel (LFS 3278) lightweight stove runs on liquid fuels like kerosene, white spirit and other petroleum based fuels.

The low centre of gravity gives extra stability and the anti-slip pot supports allow the pot to sit firmly on the stove, even when the ground is uneven.

Output: 2800 W. Weight 424 gm.



Also available a range of lightweight stoves and lanterns which use economical LP gas cartridges, and feature piezo ignition.



The Multi Fuel System.

The PRIMUS Himalaya MultiFuel (MFS 3288) (left) runs on economical LP gas cartridges as well as on liquid fuels like kerosene, white spirit and other petroleum based fuels. The best of both worlds!



Light weight products distributed in Australia by: Spelean Pty Ltd. Ph: 1 800 634 853
e-mail: primus@spelean.com.au http://www.spelean.com.au

Kayak rescue 101

Peter Bland and Jay Watson have taken the kayak-cum-sled concept to another level (see the report on Gary Kuehn, Eric Philips and Wade Fairley's crossing of the South Patagonian ice-cap in *Wild* no 80). When Bland was injured during a recent attempt to cross the Antarctic Peninsula unsupported, Watson managed to drag and float him to safety by making one of the kayaks triple as a stretcher.

Bland was swept off an ice-cliff by an avalanche after 21 days of travel by boat and foot. The two men had gone almost 600 kilometres and were camped just eight kilometres short of a successful, unsupported crossing. There have been three attempts to cross the Peninsula without help since 1901.

An article in the *Melbourne Age* on 15 February 2001 reports that Bland had a fractured skull, broken ribs and a dislocated hip.

The rescue began in earnest when three crew members from the support yacht *Tootulu* reached Watson and Bland. A helicopter was sent by the Chilean Government to carry Bland to hospital.

Watson went on to complete the crossing.

Bland is the first Australian to have reached both the North and South Magnetic Poles. He reached the North Pole in February 1998, just 12 months after major heart surgery to repair an aortic aneurysm (see *Info* in *Wild* no 74).

Filming the big jump



Glenn Singleman looks surprisingly unconcerned as his wife, Heather, launches off a bridge in Utah, USA. Singleman collection

Husband and wife team Glenn and Heather Singleman are planning a BASE-jump off the Ogre (7285 metres) in Pakistan. They have received funding from the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and the Australian Film Finance Corporation to make a film of their climb and subsequent jump.

Their support team for the climb includes two well-known Australasian climbers, Mark Baker and Athol Whimp, and climbing sound technician and guide, Adam Darragh.

The group departed from Australia on 10 May and plans to return on 30 June 2001.

Scrub doubt

Most Australians have heard the story: Ben Maloney was geographically embarrassed, if not outright lost, near Precipitous Bluff, Tasmania, for 37 days during March and April.

Maloney was carrying enough food for roughly ten days, blankets and the fly of a tent. He has been criticised for failing to take a compass or a map of the area. Search & Rescue might have had an easier task if Maloney had told someone where he was going and when he expected to be back.

Wild asked some outdoors people for comments:

'Ben Maloney was lucky that Tasmania is experiencing one of the mildest autumns on record, because if a storm had come across while he was out there, he would not have survived. The equipment that he took was adequate, but barely.'

'Search & Rescue is being criticised for "giving up" the search after only three days. Volunteers can only be out there for a certain period and the police have to start making decisions about the likelihood of survival [of the person they're looking for]. They knew that he had blankets but not [that he had] a

fly. Without a tent, you're a lot less likely to live, so the probability that he was still alive seemed low. The police only have a certain amount of resources and the golden rule of Search & Rescue is that you don't endanger your searchers.'

John Chapman

'One could surmise that Ben Maloney must have spent a huge amount of time going up and down the side ridges of the area because it is quite astonishing that he could have taken over 30 days to do the walk. From where he was last seen it is no more than two days to Precipitous Bluff.'

'A great deal has been made of the impenetrable scrub in the Tasmanian wilderness. Although there are mighty thick areas it is not uniformly so. The best option is to spend time looking at what lies ahead and trying to establish the best way round. The Southern Ranges have thick scrub but also substantial areas that are sufficiently open for slow progress to be possible.'

'The conventional wisdom is to stay put when you find yourself lost, but when it is obvious that many days are to elapse before

anyone is likely to search for you, there seems little point in waiting around. If you attempt to find your own way out the usual advice is to go downstream. [However] creeks are often the site of the thickest scrub, whereas the sharpest line of a ridge is likely to have the least growth on it [to slow your progress]. My choice would be to get up high on a ridge or try to pick my way forward or back.'

Peter Franklin

'There is no doubt that Ben Maloney should be commended for his determination in surviving such an ordeal but we cannot overlook the fact that he appeared to be very inexperienced and ill prepared. It is a shame that he was subject to such treatment by the media who lauded him first as a hero and then proceeded to treat him as a victim. The call for him to give the money back to the Tasmanian Government to cover Search & Rescue costs is unwarranted. Police and S&R are salaried and such activities constitute their job and provide them with experience. With this in mind, bushwalkers should still act responsibly and be prepared.'

Australia's favourite camera bags

Because only Lowepro gives you the Lowepro Lifetime Warranty*

Any trekking bag can carry your clothes. But only a Lowepro is designed to carry and protect your camera equipment as well. Inset on an ultra-comfortable Lowepro bag. The first choice of pro photographers everywhere!

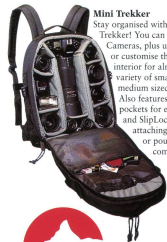


Street and Field Rover Light
A dual-section bag, designed to protect your camera and lenses in the base, and carry food and clothing in the top. Features an integrated harness, waist-belt, sternum straps and load adjustment straps. Additional cases may be attached using Lowepro's SliPlock loops. Ideal for a drink bottle, extra lens or personal items.



D-Res Backpack AW

Now you can comfortably carry a compact camera, SLR, digital or video camera around your waist. An all-weather cover provides protection against rain and dust, while internal and external pockets look after all those small accessories you need to carry.



Mini Trekker
Stay organised with a Mini Trekker! You can fit 1-2 SLR Cameras, plus up to 8 lenses, or customise the flexible interior for almost any variety of small to medium sized items. Also features lots of pockets for extra items and SliPlock loops, for attaching small cases or pouches. Very comfortable.



Australia's No 1 camera bags

Available from leading photo stores
For more product information, visit:
www.maxwell.com.au

For a Lowepro colour brochure, call:
Sydney • Phone (02) 9390 0210
Melbourne • Phone (03) 9537 0999
Brisbane • Phone (07) 3245 1544

Request a brochure by e-mail:
brochure@maxwell.com.au

*The Lowepro Lifetime Warranty covers everything but zippers. MAX4008

EXPAND



Your Comfort Zone
with waterproof, breathable, durable
Kokatat watersports wear.
Call for a free catalogue.

Kokatat



Paddle Sports Australia
PO Box 141, Preston, Vic 3072
www.paddlesports.com.au
Phone (03) 9478 3310. Fax (03) 9478 3119.

GORE-TEX and Guaranteed To Keep You Dry are registered trade marks of W.L. Gore and Associates, Inc.

IT'S EXTREME OUT THERE GEAR

SANDALS • BOOTS • JACKETS • RUCKSACKS • TRAVEL
SLEEPING • BAGS • STREETWEAR • ROCKCLIMBING
CASUAL • HIKING • CAVING

| | |
|---|--|
| Chevron Renaissance Gold Coast Hwy Surfers Paradise 07 5504 7070 | 350 Shute Harbour Rd Airlie Beach Queensland 07 4948 2355 |
| 32 Spence St Cairns Queensland 07 4051 0344 | 13 Shields St Cairns Queensland 07 4051 0567 |

web: www.itsextreme.com email: sales@itsextreme.com

The key issue in determining preparedness for these activities still hinges, as it always did, on what is an acceptable level of risk. There is a huge difference in attitude between a conscious decision not to carry an EPIRB (Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacon), mobile phone or GPS (Global Positioning System) and the ignorance or 'she'll be right' mentality in not carrying a map and compass. However, there should be no legal requirement to carry anything.

There is no doubt that Ben Maloney was lucky and that he's got a lot of guts but there are plenty of other ways to test your luck. I hope it is a salutary lesson to us all.

Stephen Burton

Paddlogaine

Chris Solnordal reports that for the first time in Victoria, the Victorian Rogaining Association held a 100 per cent canoe event. The 'Paddlogaine', as it was dubbed, was a five-hour affair and was held on the lower Ovens River near Bundalong. The slow-moving river is a maze of islands and inlets, providing the perfect environment for the competition. There were roughly 150 entrants in canoes, kayaks and K2s.

Following the success of the Paddlogaine, a Trigaine on 17 March required entrants to use mountain bikes, water craft and their feet to negotiate the eight-hour event at Lake Eppalock, Victoria. The Nigel Aylott-Tom Crebbin team came in first place over a field of about 150.

SCROGGIN


The Foundation for Humanity's Adulthood (FHA), whose directors include Australia's most celebrated mountaineer, **Tim Macartney-Snape**, announced in April that it has begun **defamation proceedings** against two of Australia's largest media institutions. The FHA wants an apology, among other things, from the **Australian Broadcasting Corpora-**

tion and John Fairfax, publisher of *The Sydney Morning Herald*, over a series of media reports in 1995. The FHA, which describes itself as 'a pioneering group that supports a new biological understanding of human nature', has complained to the Australian Broadcasting Authority, which found the ABC in breach of its code on the basis of 'inaccurate' and 'unbalanced' reporting. The ABA has advised it that it would be appropriate for the ABC to apologise to the FHA, yet it has refused to do so.

Walkers of South Australia's Heyson Trail may wish to make a detour to the **birthplace** of extraordinary Australian aviator **Hubert Wilkins**. The cottage was restored by *Australian Geographic*. It is near Mt Bryan East, 16 kilometres from the town of Hallett, where the key is available from either the Mt Bryan Hotel or the Wildongoleechee Hotel.

Three Australians died in an **avalanche** in the **Annapurna** region of Nepal on 24 March. The avalanche appears to have been caused by ice-cliffs fracturing off Hinchuli Peak. The three were part of a support trek accompanying an **Australian Army Alpine Association** Everest expedition. The expedition group, which includes **Zac Zaharias** (see his Himalayan article in *Wild* no 80), has continued to Mt Everest.

Nathan Taylor reports that a group of seven **sea-kayakers**, including himself, has made a successful **crossing of Bass Strait**. The group started at Wilsons Promontory on the Australia Day long weekend and reached the shores of Tasmania 12-and-a-half days later, after a

two-day break on Hogan Island due to high winds. The group also dealt with a broken rudder and an encounter with a shark. 



Luke Edwards and Sam Webb off the coast of Erith Island during their recent sea-kayak crossing of Bass Strait. Nathan Taylor

Corrections and amplifications


The Mountain Designs telephone number (which appears in the WL Gore insert in *Wild* no 80) is incorrect. The correct telephone number is (07) 3856 2344.

In Equipment, *Wild* no 80, it was stated that Katadyn Australasia had bought Extream, the US bottle-filter market leader. Extream has in fact been bought by Katadyn Products Inc of Switzerland. Katadyn Australasia is an agent of Katadyn Products Inc.

Readers' contributions to this department, including colour slides, are welcome. Typed items of less than 200 words are more likely to be published. Send them to the Editor, *Wild*, PO Box 415, Prahran, Vic 3181.



Mountaineer Tim Macartney-Snape is a key member of the Foundation for Humanity's Adulthood. Macartney-Snape collection



Wild Diary

Wild Diary listings provide information about rucksack-sports events and instruction courses run by non-commercial organisations. Send items for publication to the Editor, *Wild*, PO Box 415, Prahran, Vic 3181.

| June | | July | | August | | September | | October | | | |
|-------|---|------|----------------|--------|----------------------------|-----------|----------------|---------|---------------------------------|-----|----------------|
| 2-3 | 24 hr Rock and Roll R | NT | (08) 8948 1187 | 12 | Metro/cyclogaine R | Vic | (03) 9438 6626 | 26-28 | Adelaide Oxham Trailwalker B | SA | (08) 8223 3405 |
| 2-3 | 24 hr WA Champs R | WA | (08) 9342 9213 | 25 | 6/12 hr (Lake Macquarie) R | NSW | (02) 9990 3480 | 27 | 6/12 hr Schools Champs R | WA | (08) 9342 9213 |
| 9-11 | NSWBCE instructors' re-certification workshop (Barrington Tops) C | NSW | (02) 6558 4316 | 1 | Snogaine R | Vic | (03) 9438 6626 | 27-28 | 24 hr NSW Champs (S Highland) R | NSW | (02) 9990 3480 |
| 16-17 | 2 x 6 hr Schools/Venturer Challenge R | Vic | (03) 9438 6626 | 1-2 | Cyclogaine R | Qld | (07) 3351 6563 | 27-28 | 15/24 hr Qld Champs R | Qld | (07) 3351 6563 |
| 17 | 6 hr R | NSW | (02) 9990 3480 | 9 | Cyclogaine R | ACT | (02) 6247 5334 | 27-28 | 15 hr R | Vic | (03) 9438 6626 |
| 30 | 6/12 hr R | Qld | (07) 3351 6563 | 29 | Spring 12 hr R | SA | (08) 8271 2712 | | | | |
| | | | | 12 | 12 hr Handicap R | | | | | | |
| 7 | 6/12 hr R | Qld | (07) 4093 9553 | | | | | | | | |
| 7-8 | 24 hr SA Champs R | SA | (08) 8271 2712 | | | | | | | | |
| 20-22 | Pump 'n' Pedals Cairns Eco Adventure Race 2001 M | Qld | (07) 4093 8808 | | | | | | | | |
| 4-5 | 24 hr Australian Champs R | WA | (08) 9342 9213 | | | | | | | | |

Activities: B bushwalking, C canoeing, M multisports, R rogaining, Education Rogaining events are organised by the State rogaining associations. Organisations: NSWBCE New South Wales Board of Canoe



TASMANIAN BUSHWALKING

Whiteout,

CAMPED UNDER THE ROCKY PINNACLES OF Cradle Mountain, I suddenly awoke to the very loud rumble of not too distant thunder. It took only a few moments to realise that the thunder was shaking the sleeping mat! It was around 2 am and I was very much awake. I woke John with the words 'I think it's an earth tremor.' I casually enquired about the possibility of an avalanche being set off by all this movement. Although still half asleep, he promptly told me not to worry about it and to go back to sleep. But it was a worrying two hours later before I eventually nodded off again, having resigned myself to the fact that whatever would happen would happen and there was absolutely nothing I could do about it.

'Suddenly, without warning, a silent rush of cold pushed me unceremoniously from one side of the tent to the other. In disbelief, I realised I'd been struck by a small avalanche.'

It was an early awakening to the second day of our ten-day walk along the Overland Track in late August and our makeshift camp high up on the mountain was not where we had intended to stay. The weather had been overcast and, although it had snowed heavily on the days before our arrival, it wasn't snowing when we left the slush-covered car park after a late lunch. Well—not yet, anyway! A momentary break in the clouds afforded a stunning view across Lake Dove to the snow-covered Cradle Mountain but the grey, cloud-filled sky soon closed over and enveloped the summit for the next few days.

After wading uphill for several hours in knee- to thigh-deep snow, we finally reached the Face Track at dusk. It had been very slow going from the Ballroom Forest, past Lake Wilkes to the base of the rocky towers above. Our snowshoes were more of a hind-

rance than a help so they were strapped to our packs during the climb. We continued across the face of Cradle Mountain until, in the fading light, we finally decided that enough was enough. We could not possibly reach Kitchen Hut that night. It was getting cold and we needed to find somewhere to camp. In the dim light, we headed towards what looked like a small flattening on the side of the hill several metres below the track. By the time we reached it, it was well and truly dark. Perched high under the icy rock summits, we began to establish our camp.

registered 4.2 on the Richter scale and its epicentre had been near Mole Creek. As the crow flies, it was only about 30 kilometres away.

Early in the morning the snow was sparkling in the sunshine, the sky was the palest blue and spindrift was blowing in my face—a grand day in the making. Lake Dove was visible below and rocky towers loomed above with only a little mist drifting around. After breakfast we packed up our goods and chattels. John was outside breaking a trail back to the main track and I was sitting on



Pelion Gap has the best grandstand view along the track. Ahead is the Du Cane Range. John Chapman. Left, Enjoying a rare spell of sun; Pinestone Valley provides easy walking and good views of Cathedral Mountain. Monica Chapman

The wind whipped up and the temperature dropped. As our South Australian friend, Rosco, had never snow-camped before, there were hurried lessons on how to make a firm platform on which to erect the tents. We put up one tent and then the other, sheltering in the first with a drink and a bite to eat before tackling the second. Once ensconced in our tents, we turned our attention to the matter of dinner and the process of melting snow to accumulate sufficient water for cooking and drinking. That done, we curled up for a good night's sleep. Little did we know then that in a few hours the earth would shake, rattle and roll! The next day we heard on the radio that the tremor had

the edge of the tent with my legs in the snow pit putting on my gaiters. The tent-fly was closed to stop the snow from being blown into the inner. I couldn't see what Rosco was doing in the other tent—or anything else that was going on outside, for that matter.

Then suddenly, without warning, a silent rush of cold pushed me unceremoniously from one side of the tent to the other. In disbelief, I realised I'd been struck by a small avalanche. I sat quietly waiting for a further slide to launch me down the slope, wondering what I'd do if it happened, but there was nothing. I vaguely recall registering the snap of a tent pole. I looked behind me to see the tent curved in some very peculiar

Wipeout and Wonderful

Monica Chapman takes on Tasmania's famous Overland Track in winter

shapes. It was then that I felt an urgent need to get out of the tent—perhaps an onslaught of temporary claustrophobia. I needed to escape from my crumpled abode. I tried vainly to unzip the tent-fly, first from the bottom, then from the top. I managed to get a small opening that allowed the crisp air in and I looked across to where the other tent should have been. It was flattened with chunks of snow strewn where it had once stood. With some concern for the whereabouts of Rosco, I called out. Fortunately a voice answered from a position at right angles to my small, triangular view. I pulled at the tent-fly so that I could see in the direction of the voice. I then saw our very tall friend chest-deep in snow, literally swimming to keep upright. He was okay. I called out to find out where John had ended up. He was above the avalanche and had triggered it off while breaking the trail up the slope to the main track.

After digging me, the tents, packs and snowshoes out of the snow, we continued south. The weather closed in and as we traversed the remaining slopes we took care to cross the avalanche chutes one at a time. We snowshoed across several sections of very loose, fresh snow, sometimes waist-deep, to reach Kitchen Hut for a late lunch. We decided to stay at the hut for the night to make the necessary repairs to the tent poles and to wait for the weather to improve before heading on.

By early evening we were sitting in white-out conditions. All the next day it was floor-

to-ceiling whiteness. I ventured out a short distance to take a photo of the hut, but had to move closer actually to see it! The following day there was more of the same. It was not sensible to move on or return along the same route. During the night it rained and we were thankful as it meant that the soft snow would consolidate and we wouldn't sink in so far during our snowshoe shuffling. The following morning we took advantage of the improved visibility and headed on.

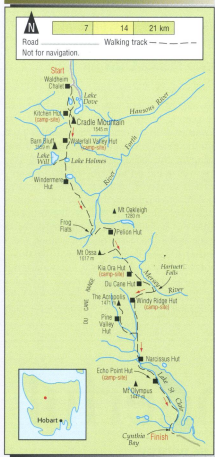
Our next stop was Waterfall Valley Hut—amazingly, we had it all to ourselves. It took some time for Rosco to get used to walking on his larger feet and following precisely in the footsteps ahead. Each time he missed the track, he ended up in a deep hole and had to be hauled out. I must say, however, that he was a quick learner—perhaps because of necessity.

Monica Chapman

loves journeying to wild destinations and revels in the experiences afforded by the outdoors. Whether walking rugged coastlines or ski-touring over alpine plains, she enjoys the solitude, the companionship of fellow adventurers and the remoteness from normal city life.



The Overland Track

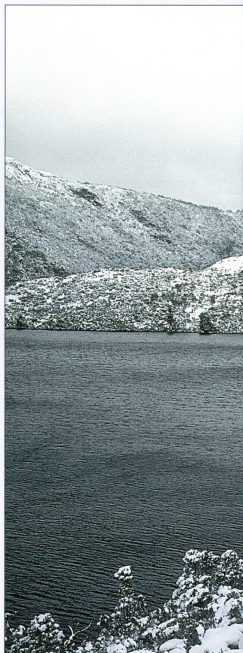


We continued on snowshoes across the flatter plains passing Lake Holmes until we reached the final descent to Lake Windermere. From Windermere Hut onwards those snowshoes were taking an easy ride on the back of our packs. During the trip we encountered other walkers only at Pelion Hut. Here, two local fishermen were very surprised to see our group and another walker heading from south to north. They obviously thought they'd have the place to themselves, but welcomed the company with a hot brew. The solo walker commented on the deep snow he'd encountered over Pelion Gap; however, when we crossed it the next day we marvelled at the limited amount of snow about and thought of the difficulties that lay ahead for the solo walker further north. I think he would have had a bit of a surprise and found the going a fair bit harder than he'd done so far, particularly as he was without snowshoes.

Rosco, who'd taken us to the drier, warmer Gammon Ranges, was now marvelling at the wonders of the rugged Tasmanian snow-capped mountains. It had taken him some time to acquire a pair of snowshoes in South

Australia. However, his efforts had proved worth while. Although we carried them for most of the trip, they proved very useful on the flatter sections of the track in the higher altitude at the northern end of the Park.

There were grandstand views when we reached Pelion Gap, where we stopped for lunch. Mt Ossa, the Du Cane Range, Cathedral Mountain and Mt Oakleigh were all



in clear view. I stood looking in amazement at the majestic landscape that had been hidden in low cloud on a previous visit at Easter. On that trip drizzle had turned to rain that, in turn, had given way to torrential downpours. By day three the tracks had turned to creeks. Mountains had not been visible from Pelion Gap, or anywhere else along the track for that matter, just a bleak view of Pelion East through the hail. Standing here now it was as though someone had lifted the heavy blanket of cloud to reveal the underlying beauty.

After a longish lunch admiring the views we walked down to Kia Ora Hut, which we had all to ourselves. The hut brought back other memories of that wet Easter trip when 30 walkers were stranded here for two days as Kia Ora Creek had flooded.

Further on we passed the historical Du Cane Hut. It appeared to have had some maintenance since my last trip. We visited

Small snowdrifts were easily crossed in Du Cane Gap on the way to Windy Ridge Hut. The following day we had an easy walk to Narcissus Hut and Lake St Clair. We continued along the forested shore line around to Echo Point. Here is a small hut and a jetty at which you can signal the boat. Staying in the hut is not recommended unless you enjoy the company of small,

formation office with take-away food, souvenirs and a restaurant in the adjacent building.

The Overland Track is one of Tasmania's most interesting and undoubtedly most popular walks. The track itself runs almost through the middle of the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park. During the 74 kilometre walk, the spectacular mountains, abundant lakes and tarns, numerous water-



Trudging through the snow beside Lake Dove, the Little Horn and Cradle Mountain beakon. Monica Chapman

all the waterfalls in the Mersey valley. They were in very fine form indeed and very similar to our flooded Easter visit. Hartnett Falls were like a heavy, white curtain with mist filling the river valley, soaking cameras and making photography difficult. Attempts at conversation at Ferguson and D'Alton Falls were a waste of breath. Our voices were completely drowned out by the deafening roar of the powerful rush of water into the gorge.

furry rodents during the early hours of the morning. Looking across the lake from Echo Point, Mt Ida rose like an obelisk above the slowly swirling mist lying comfortably on a bed of water. Low cloud engulfed the higher peaks, adding to the mysterious view.

The next day we completed the final section through the damp, moss-covered forest and happily set down our packs on the verandah of the visitor centre. This relatively new complex comprises a large National Parks in-

falls and varying flora and fauna stimulate your senses.

About 8000 walkers head along the Overland Track each year, mostly during the summer months and in autumn when the fagus puts on its golden show. However, for experienced walkers who want to undertake something a bit different during a quieter period of the year, a well-planned trip along the track in winter can be as beautiful as it is challenging. 🏔️

Cradle Mountain the Hard Way

A 'feminine bushwalk', by Robyn Cooper



THIS IS THE STORY OF MY FIRST BUSHWALK.

Four of us were on this six-day walk from Cradle Mountain to Lake St Clair in Tasmania (it should have been five days but we lost the track on the first day, so the walk took an extra day) over the Boxing Day–New Years Day period of 1962–63. The party comprised two women and two men, all in our early twenties. Only one of the four, Winton, the walk leader, had bushwalking experience; the rest of us were novices, mere tyros. The other man, John, was English, accustomed to walking on paths, crossing rippling rills, gazing at the beauties of a tamed nature. For him, climbing over stiles was the most strenuous activity in his country rambles, and energy was quickly restored at a nearby pub. For the two women, our most strenuous walking experience was to and from the bus-stop or railway station and from department store to department store in central Sydney. Four bushwalkers; four sets of memories—which have faded over the 38 years since the walk. The story I tell is about my memories of the preparations for and the experience of the walk although I also draw upon the recollections of my fellow walkers.

Two considerations shaped my preparations for the walk. In the first place I was determined to be a feminine bushwalker. I was desperately into the feminine, not in the sense of wanting to be a wife and mother—that was not on my life agenda—but in pursuing a life of intellectual thought and action without losing my femininity. As an undergraduate and a postgraduate I had a desperate fear of looking like the plain, poorly dressed female students (as I saw them) who had academic ambitions similar to my own. I was determined not to be a blue-stocking. I made a point of wearing smart clothes, high heels and bows in my hair. This mode of self-presentation had little to do with attracting men (whom I found rather frightening and forbidding). It arose from my resistance to the belief that women's exercise of their minds was detrimental to their femininity (which I now know had its origins in the 18th century) or that only plain or ugly women became academics. I wanted to be clever and feminine. My obsession with femininity shaped my preparations for the Cradle Mountain–Lake St Clair walk.

First and foremost in my preparations was a suitable wardrobe for the walk. The

determining factor here was the desire not to look like a 'butch' bushwalker in boots and sensible trousers but to maintain my femininity. So I went to my dressmaker, who made me a denim suit—skirt and jacket. The use of denim was an acknowledgment of the fact that I was indeed on a bushwalk; the skirt announced that I was a feminine bushwalker. I might add that my denim suit anticipated the denim fashion of the 1970s by ten years. I did buy jeans but they were white and very smart. As for footwear, I ignored our leader's recommendation to buy walking boots from the Sydney camping and bushwalking specialist Paddy Pallin. How could my long and elegantly narrow (AA fitting) feet be enclosed in such gross and heavy footwear? So I went to David Jones and bought myself a pair of Sandler Varsity brogues. For the walk I was prepared to make the compromise of wearing flaties, not heels. The other female walker, Vanessa, was less obsessed with her femininity. She bought two pairs of grey jeans, and a pair of army boots from Paddy Pallin.

I was also anxious to protect my complexion from the harsh weather conditions

to which it might be exposed. So it was back to DJs, to the Cyclax counter in the cosmetic department where I bought moisturising, cleansing and night creams, all in glass jars.

The second consideration was the food for the walk. This was to be my responsibility, presumably because it was considered an appropriately female task. Winton told me where (Paddy Pallin) and what (powdered eggs and milk, nuts, dried fruit, and so on). But I wasn't having a bar of this. How could one possibly survive for five days on such boring food? So I collected the leftover ham and Christmas cake from my mother. And I went back once more to DJs, this time to the food hall. There I bought honey, salami, exotic foreign cheese, fruit and sauerkraut—the last to ensure that we didn't suffer from scurvy on our journey.

Having put together a casually elegant wardrobe, ensured that my skin would be well protected, and assembled a variety of tasty comestibles, I felt that I was ready for the walk. I seem to have blotted out from my mind the fact that this mountain of matter had to be carried in my pack.

The first night was spent at the base of Cradle Mountain. The tent was too small for four people and their possessions, so the packs were left outside. A possum broke into them and helped itself to some of the provisions, including the jar of honey, which was not a bad thing since it reduced the burden that had to be carried on the walk. The next day, day

Tasmanian travel brochures was lyrical on the beauties of the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park, now a World Heritage Area—the spectacular views, the lakes and the waterfalls, the variety of plant and animal life; truly a bushwalker's paradise. Such was not our experience. The mist and rain made it impossible to see anything—neither the grand vistas, nor the little, furry animals (who were protecting themselves from the weather), nor yet the luxuriant plant life (looking limp and sodden). The weather was consistently wet and wintry; it even snowed on New Year's Eve. The tent, designed to withstand showers but not a deluge, let water in; the huts were the very

in their comfortable boots and sensible clothes. My denim skirt was never worn and the white jeans became stiff with mud. I don't remember whether I used the Cyclax face creams. Perhaps I didn't bother on a journey where my sole purpose was survival.

On the plus side of this dismal story was the roaring trade we did in ham, Christmas cake and sauerkraut with other walkers, sick to death of their dried food. The exchange rate for food was very much in our favour, and we ended the walk with a surplus of dried food. By the time we were into food exchange I was happy to eat dried eggs and veg since it meant a reduction in the general burden.

I have no memories of the walkers we met on our journey. I was too absorbed in my own suffering. Apparently we came across a Japanese bushwalker carrying an umbrella, a camera and potatoes. We were overtaken by Germans (I imagine that we were overtaken by many walkers), strapping figures striding ahead carrying little luggage but with heaps of energy. With the aid of the second bottle of whisky (I had finished the first), we also made friends in the hut where we spent New Year's Eve.

At the end of my six days of hell I decided that I would



The 'after' photo. From left, John Wiltshire, Vanessa Deans, the author and Winton Higgins. Robyn Cooper collection

'First and foremost in my preparations was a suitable wardrobe for the walk.'

one, 'dawned bright and clear'. It was the only one to do so until the last day. The walk began with a vertical 300 metre (1000 feet) climb. I began the climb with a pack so heavy that I was bent over almost to the ground. Halfway I sat down and declared that I wasn't going any further. Winton, the model of noble masculinity, offered to relieve me of most of my burden and into his already laden pack went the ham, the Christmas cake, the Cyclax bottles and other weighty items. John also did his manly bit by carrying some of Vanessa's load. I managed to climb to the top and we continued the walk.

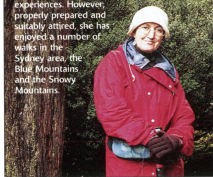
incarnation of the primitive (I gather that they're rather more advanced today). We hopped from button-grass tuft to button-grass tuft, sank into mud, walked on logs across creeks (not always successfully) and had our blood sucked by leeches.

My difficulties and discomforts were exacerbated by my Sandler Varsity brogues. It did not take me long to realise that they were totally unsuitable for walking through slush and mud and for clambering over rocks. Worn for the first time, they soon began to hurt. By the second day the pain was insufferable. I felt like the little mermaid in the Hans Christian Andersen story, whose every step on land sent daggers up her body. Every morning I was sent out of the hut early carrying a bottle of whisky. The whisky warmed me and dulled the pain and I managed to hobble to the next hut, where I would collapse and rest until the following day's torture. All I thought about was the end of the walk and whether my feet had been damaged for life.

Ideas of feminine bushwalking were soon abandoned. I envied the women walkers

Robyn Cooper

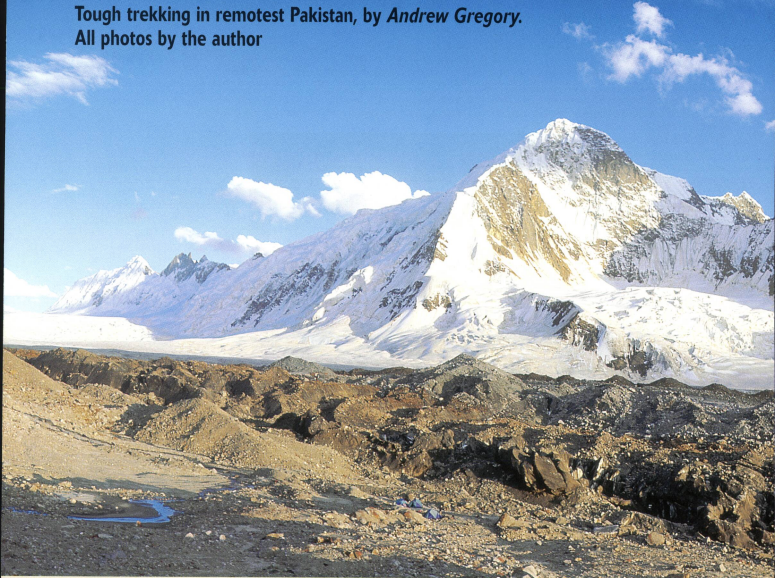
is an Honorary Associate in the Department of Art History, University of Sydney; she cannot lay claim to any major bushwalking experience. However, properly prepared and suitably attired, she has enjoyed a number of walks in the Sydney area, the Blue Mountains and the Snowy Mountains.



hurl my Sandler Varsity brogues and my mud-encrusted, no-longer-white jeans into Lake St Clair. I didn't. I didn't have any other shoes with me, and the jeans were my only trousers. I don't remember what happened to them on my return to Sydney. The searing experience of my Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair walk led me to question my ideas of femininity, at least to the extent that I realised bushwalking and femininity were an ill-matched pair. I realised that I had to abandon my feminine principles, at any rate in regard to bushwalking, if I were to enjoy the pleasures it offers. ☹

There Are Many Peaks,

Tough trekking in remotest Pakistan, by Andrew Gregory.
All photos by the author



THE STREETS OF RAWALPINDI ARE STEAMING in the approach to the monsoon season. The heat and smell sap my energy. I have taken three planes in two days to reach this old city and I am jet lagged.

In the hotel I meet the seven other trekkers for the first time and we set off to find a meal. Pakistan is an Islamic country and men wear the shalwar kamiz, a loose-fitting pair of pants and a tunic; as we pass through the garbage-covered streets we are glaringly conspicuous in our Western clothes. In Pakistan men dominate and the absence of women in public places is normal but I find it unnerving.

Around a few dishes of dahl and chapattis we discuss our situation. We intend to trek the length of the Biafo and Hispar Glaciers. At 124 kilometres this is the longest continuous mountain-generated ice corridor in the world. At the convergence of the

glaciers is the stunning expanse of the Snow Lake basin, the world's biggest suspended snow hole, some 90 kilometres wide and over one kilometre deep in the central section. To get from the Biafo to the Hispar we have to cross the Hispar Pass, which rises to 5150 metres. Above the pass is a peak called Mt Kurdophin, which we plan to climb.

As a photographer I'm excited by the prospect of going to a place that is beautiful, remote and seldom visited. Only two or three expeditions a year make this trek. My immediate concern is that our team leader, who has previously attempted to climb Mt Kurdophin, hasn't been able to make the trip. None of us has been to Pakistan or climbed at high altitudes before. We spend the rest of the day sorting equipment and meeting with members of the trekking company who are organising our porters.

The next morning our flight to Gilgit is cancelled and we leave in a minibus. We spend two days driving the spectacular 600 kilometre Karakoram Highway. The road cuts into massive slopes, which plummet into roaring rivers. A soldier with an AK47 demands my film after I photograph a bridge. This is a war zone and the military presence is noticeable. Soldiers maintain the road, which needs to be constantly rebuilt after rockfalls.

The drive ends at Skardu and the famous K2 Hotel, which is a meeting point for trekkers and climbers. The hotel gardens look out over the vast Indus Delta. Skardu is surrounded by snow-capped peaks which are sheer and impressive and hide the giants of the Karakoram. Some of our team have become sick, possibly due to a suspect meal served in a hotel in Chilas the night before. They don't leave the hotel for two days.

My Friend



Dwarfed by the magnitude. Camped on the Hispar Glacier.

This is a setback but it gives the rest of the group time to explore the town and to stock up on equipment and supplies. We employ a high-altitude porter who has just climbed Nanga Parbat to accompany us on our climb.

Skardu seems like the end of the line but the road actually ends at the small village of Askole, which is the starting point for the trek up the Biafo Glacier. The 'road' is a dirt track and we hire Jeeps for the trip. We have to change Jeeps and carry our equipment across the remains of a bridge that has been washed away. More Jeeps trapped on the other side take us the rest of the way.

Askole is in a beautiful valley. We pitch our tents and watch the porters gather. It is also the starting-point for expeditions to K2 and a German group returns and tells us tales

of the mountain. At Askole I have my first experience of Islamic custom when I approach the village with my camera. The old women and boys scream and guide me away. Looking at women is forbidden in northern Pakistan—there won't be any Nepalese-style portraits of smiling villagers on this trip.

The next day we watch in amazement as 65 dissentient porters discuss weights and loads. We plan to be away for almost four weeks and we have to carry everything, including fuel for our stoves. Even after the porters are assigned their loads, some members of our team still carry about 15 kilograms of equipment.

The first day is a pleasant walk along the tracks of the valley. It is hot and we spend the late afternoon exploring a canyon. Blocks

of ice wash up on the sandy shores of the flooding Braldu River. We spend our first evening at Tongol, a large field once used as a polo ground. At night I listen to the two goats tethered outside my tent and try not to think about their fate.

The next morning I watch the sun kiss the peaks far above us. We have breakfast and watch the porters heckling. Suddenly the discussions cease and they charge off. We follow, unsure of what the day will bring. We pass the Baltoro Glacier, which leads to Concordia and on to K2; we head in the opposite direction and climb our first steep steppe to reach the Biafo (which means 'Rooster' in Balti) Glacier.

The landscape on the Biafo is chaotic. Massive boulders are stacked in precarious

piles at the base of the glacier. We walk for ten hours, jumping rocks, crossing streams and negotiate the moraine to camp at Mango. We cross steep scree that tumbles into crevasses. The end of the day leads to the collapse of a few of our team members who are still recovering from their illness.

The next day we march on to Biantho.

The glacier is like a highway of ice interrupted by holes and crevasses around which we zigzag and back-track. Biantho is a valley behind the moraine, with a beautiful mountain stream. We decide to have a rest-day; we have climbed considerably in three days and can feel the altitude. The next day we entertain a large crowd of porters by climbing boulders near the camp. The goats are killed and our cook, Ferdos, presents us with a curry of offal.

In the morning our team leader, Dave (we have three Daves on this trip), is unwell. He hasn't completely recovered from his illness. He decides to return to Skardu and he takes two porters to guide him. We later learn that he was suffering from pneumonia. We continue up the glacier and stop at a site called Marporo, which is at the foot of a massive rock wall. The moraine is extensive and it takes a couple of hours to cross the rubble leading to the camp. We soon learn to fill our water-bottles whenever possible as the water here is silty.

We settle into a pattern of walking more than one section each day and the trekking is tiring. Our guide Amin terminates our rest breaks with a cry of 'Chalo' (hurry up). Our pleas of 'How far?' are answered with 'A few hours more—Inshallah' (God willing).

After Marporo the glacier becomes rocky and we leave the sheltered valleys and camp

which conceals the crevasses. We rope up and form lines to climb towards the peaks. There isn't any running water and I quickly dehydrate and develop a headache which thumps through my body with every step.

For a few hours we march past the 7285 metre Ogre. We finally climb to a flat section below the Hispar Pass. Beneath us is the

spectacular Snow Lake, surrounded by high and jagged peaks. We quickly prepare a camp and lend our ice-axes to the porters, who furiously dig two large pits in the snow which they cover with tarpaulins.

In the morning we clear the powdery spindrift from around our tents. The snow has continued all night and we spend the day watching spectacular storms appear over the mountains. We climb a

nearby ridge and in between blizzards we catch glimpses of the crystalline Snow Lake. Most of us are now suffering from some form of altitude sickness and we also supply headache tablets to a steady stream of porters. During the four days we camp at Snow Lake the porters spend their time in their caves making chapattis on kerosene stoves. A visit to one cave sends my head into a spin; the fumes are unbearable.

For a day and a night the snow is so heavy that we are confined to our tents, which at times are flattened by squalls. Looking out-

'I hide my shock when I climb up. The other side drops vertically for hundreds of metres.'

on rock outcrops. We are now above 4000 metres and another Dave has developed an abscess in his tooth, possibly due to the altitude. He cannot do anything but wait. In the evening I sit and stare at the serrated peaks of the Karakoram. I ask Amin what is the name of a certain peak. Amin simply looks at me and says, 'there are many peaks, my friend'. This becomes a game we play over the next couple of weeks. The Karakoram is the home of countless unnamed spires.

As we approach Snow Lake the glacier becomes a road of ice covered by snow

The group takes a rest on the Biafo Glacier—one half of the longest continuous mountain-generated ice corridor in the world.



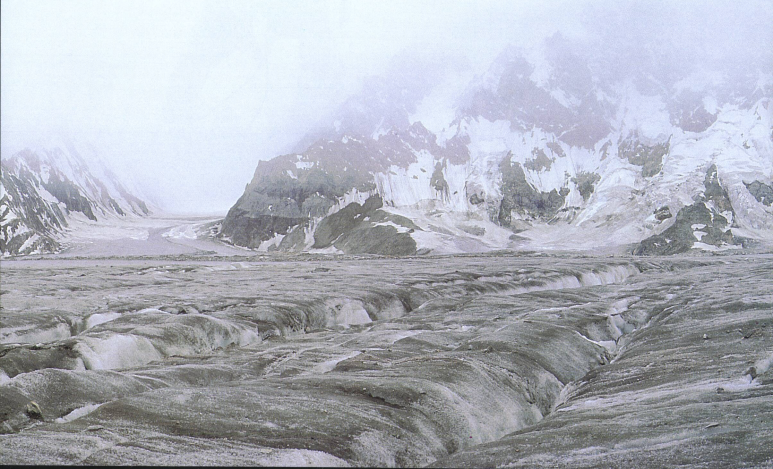
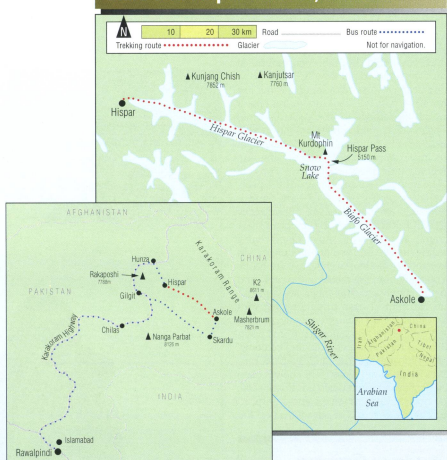
side during the blizzard I can't see the tent next to mine. We decide to cross the pass before it becomes impossible and we have to turn back down the Biafo.

Eventually the snow clears and I try to photograph the dawn's alpenglow as the camp is packed up around me. The porters take off and we rope together and follow, snaking upwards through waist-deep drifts. The top of the pass is a corridor with peaks towering on either side. To our right is Mt Kurdophin. We plan to camp here but the porters march on, desperate to reach dry ground below the pass. After 12 hours of walking we set up camp in the terrible, rubble-strewn moraine below the pass and fall into our tents.

Over breakfast the next morning the discussions are heated. The porters wish to continue down the Hispar. They are paid for each section and want to reach the villages below as quickly as possible. We want to climb; the weather has cleared and from our camp we can see the summit of Kurdophin. A search of our rations reveals that the porters have exhausted most of our fuel and food at Snow Lake. It becomes apparent that we have been undersupplied for the trip. We are torn between going down to the village and attempting the climb; we let the weather decide.

At dawn the sky is crisp and clear and we hurriedly prepare, taking as much food as the camp can spare. Five of us and our high-

Biafo and Hispar Glaciers, Pakistan



altitude porter will attempt the climb. We persuade three other porters to help us climb back up the pass. Our packs are loaded with tents and climbing gear. The pass is steep and difficult to cross from this side.

We climb slowly around crevasses into which you could drop an entire house. At times we fall up to our armpits in drifts covering deep crevasses. We set up a camp just above the pass and look down the Hispar towards the setting sun. The glacier becomes a magnificent, golden highway surrounded on all sides by ominous spires. The peace of our small camp and the beauty of the moment leave us speechless.

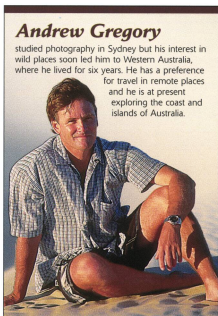
The next day we climb towards the peak. The last section to our final base camp is steep and I am exhausted. We camp directly below Kurdophin which, except for its sheer summit, is thick with snow. Our evening meal is meagre and we are all hungry. We have another glorious evening; we are happy to be away from the rabble of the camp and on the mountain. That night we squeeze into two tents. I have trouble coping with the altitude and I wake frequently, gasping for breath. I have also suffered sun- and wind-burn and my lips are cracked and bleeding.

At midnight we rise and prepare ourselves for the summit dash. The snow is deep and we have to climb when it is frozen solid. The night is clear, moonless and a crisp 20 degrees below zero. The stars reflect off the

bought a manual Nikon and a Noblex Panorama camera. I don't have a tripod so I improvise with ice-axes and shock-cord to photograph the dawn. The Noblex has a revolving barrel lens and it malfunctions in the cold but I manage a couple of shots.

silent, ethereal zone where nothing lives. To my right I can see the entire length of the Hispar Glacier and the walk that lies ahead of us.

As the sun rises the ridge groans with avalanche whispers. The day before we saw ice-



Andrew Gregory

studied photography in Sydney but his interest in wild places soon led him to Western Australia, where he lived for six years. He has a preference for travel in remote places and he is at present exploring the coast and islands of Australia.

ice, providing a subtle illumination. We climb roped together with crampons and ice-axes, chipping our way up the mountain. One of Dave's crampons comes loose and Carlos and I move up to help him. Carlos drops his headtorch and dives to catch it. I dig my axes in and luckily stop his fall. We all watch his torch tumble straight down the mountain; it seems to take forever.

Just before dawn we reach the ridge that leads to the rocky summit. I hide my shock when I climb up. The other side drops vertically for hundreds of metres. We walk along the precarious, narrow ridge surrounded by the magnitude of the Karakoram. I have



Slogging up towards the Hispar Pass during a break in the weather.

We soon realise that the snow and our lack of resources will stop us from reaching the summit. The final ridge is steep and rocky and would require fixed ropes, more than a day's work. Our food is gone and if the weather changes we will be in trouble. We stop and savour the moment; the view as far as we can see is of massive peaks, the Ogre is closest and in the distance is K2. We are standing as high as planes fly, near the

falls and we descend quickly. For breakfast we have green tea and biscuits. We then spend a long day returning to our previous camp in the boulder-strewn moraine. The porters who helped us back up to the pass have remained but the rest of the camp has gone. We finish our supplies: A tin of sardines, one Mars bar and a few dry biscuits between six of us. The porters have run out of flour and we share packet soup.

We walk for another day and a half over rubble and moraine. We eventually reach the camp made by our porters and our other trekkers, Dave and Joe, in a valley called Broom Broom. We arrive to cheers and clapping. The camp is short of supplies and they have sent porters ahead to bring back food. We are too tired to walk the next day. It is a beautiful site and wildflowers bloom.

The Hispar is a turbulent sea of boulders, impassable in places. For the next couple of days we rock hop through the moraine and

Difficult moraine eventually gives way to tracks. We come to our first tree and enjoy the wild flowers. We see Hispar hours before we arrive. The village is perched beneath hills on the other side of the glacier, which has by now turned into a thundering river. We drop down to the river and cross a suspension bridge. During a slow climb up to the village, we draw a crowd of young boys who run ahead laughing. We arrive exhausted and later savour hard-boiled eggs and potatoes.

A stunning ride brings us to the beautiful Hunza valley. We rest in a hotel and watch the full moon rise over the magnificent 7788 metre Rakaposhi. We spend a couple of days sightseeing and shopping for shawls and lapis. It is spring in the Hunza and apricots are drying in the sun on the roofs of the village. That night we are all jubilant and as a group we sit down to a meal of chicken. Some of us are unfortunate and become sick with salmonella poisoning that lasts for days.



The group strings out on the Biafo Glacier.

negotiate terminal glaciers. Our camps are by rampaging streams running off awesome walls. At night we listen as huge sections of ice and snow break away from the peaks above us. Eventually we reach a camp where one of the porters has returned from Hispar village with a few kilos of flour. We continue for another day to a large, grassed area called Bitanmal.

Late that afternoon the porters challenge us to a cricket match. We use boulders for stumps and we play for an hour, fielding in slow motion at four thousand metres before we collapse on the grass. In the evening our head guide Amin returns from Hispar, with barely enough food for a meal. We still have 30 porters and they begin to fight.

In the evening the men from the village come to party but we are too tired to stay up dancing. The next day we explore the village, occasionally catching a glimpse of girls or women working in the distant fields. We buy a sheep and watch as Ferdos slaughters it for the evening meal. Dinner is eagerly awaited and we watch in dismay as once again Ferdos serves us offal. The porters have already taken the meat. I eat anyway and spend the night being violently sick. The porters ask for baksheesh and are not content until we hand over all the cash we have between us. Thousands of dollars in climbing gear also goes missing.

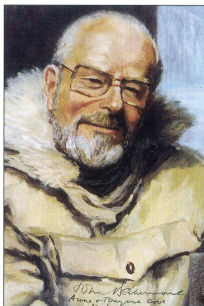
The next day we leave in Jeeps, and the porters follow in trailers drawn by tractors.

From Hunza we have another day in a bus to Gilgit where we find that our return flight to Islamabad has been cancelled. Two more days in a bus along the Karakoram Highway and we are back in Rawalpindi. We check into a hotel at midnight and eat breakfast cautiously the next morning.

From here we scatter on different flights. Greg and Mark return to Perth. The rest of us leave together for Sydney via Bangkok. The plane is hours late and as we taxi to the runway for a second attempt at take-off I notice our seat-belts are all different; our plane is a collection of spare parts. An Islamic prayer plays over the video and as we climb to 6000 metres I close my eyes and utter a quiet Inshallah. 🙏

John Mayston Béchervaise

In the centenary of Federation, *Brian Walters* profiles the man who first climbed the peak named in honour of the new Australian nation



Above left, *Portrait of John Béchervaise in his Antarctic furs, artist unknown. Lorna Béchervaise collection*



Above right, *Béchervaise as art master at St Georges School, Harpenden, UK. Ken Peake-Jones collection*

IT MUST HAVE BEEN A GREAT TRIP. I CANNOT FIND any photographs of the hikers visiting Victoria's Lake Tarli Karng, but there is a strange memento: a photograph of a hard-bread biscuit.

Crosbie Morrison had most of the walkers sign their names on the biscuit. In those days probably only the governor, Lord Somers, and CA Hoadley, a geologist who had accompanied Mawson to the Antarctic, were well known. But the other names have since become legends in a variety of fields. There is Alan Moorehead, later a famous traveller and fine writer; there are names well known in Scouting circles—Samuel Wilkinson and Bill Waters. There is the future Rhodes scholar, Pyke. Morrison, an experienced bushwalker, later became a renowned naturalist, with a series of popular radio broadcasts in the 1930s. And in the middle of the biscuit is the signature of the 17-year-old John Béchervaise—who was to contribute so much to the appreciation of the outdoors in Australia.

It was December 1927. The Boy Scouts took the Governor of Victoria on a trip to see Lake Tarli Karng and Mt Wellington. In those days the logging

roads did not penetrate beyond Licola. It was a major expedition to get to the hidden lake in the Victorian Alps. Béchervaise had been chosen from amongst all Victoria's Scouts to accompany the governor on this trip.

Later, Béchervaise would take hundreds of teenage boys on trips like this that they would remember all their lives.

He was already an experienced walker. Just 17 months before, shortly after his 16th birthday, Béchervaise (who was born on 11 May 1910) had walked out of the front door of his suburban Melbourne home in Murrumbidgee carrying a swag and a staff, determined to walk until he reached snow. After two weeks and 130 kilometres, he arrived in Mt Torbreck, and saw snow for the first time.

What did he think of it? 'After having imagined snow for so long it seemed familiar even then.'

His lust for adventure had been fired by reading the books written by his great-great-grandfather—also John Béchervaise—who had been awarded the Arctic Medal in 1826. The elder John Béchervaise (the name derives from the Channel Island of Jersey)

I met the younger John Béchervaise in 1990 when he was already 80 years old and a legend of the Australian outdoors. He struck me as congenial, if slightly formal; a short, inspiring man full of energy. He was very organised and he quickly located the slides and documents he wished to show me. He spoke of the trip to Mt Torbreck more than 60 years earlier:

Mats of snow grew firmer and larger as I climbed. Still it was softer and wetter than I imagined, and I remember my cold feet and sodden boots. I pitched my tent in a thicket of wattles, somewhat intimidated by a couple of searching steers and, recalling old tales, made my fire a little larger than necessary.

Next morning my boots were frozen and the snow like stone.

I learned a lot—shelter is more important than food—and passed this on through future years to youthful companions. Not infrequently we took our boots to bed.

Béchervaise never lost his love of ice and snow. He was to spend a significant part of his life in snowy terrain. In 1956, 130 years after his ancestor received the Arctic Medal, he was awarded the Polar Medal.

In the year preceding the Lake Tarli Kamg expedition, Béchervaise made the trip to the lighthouse on Wilsons Promontory, Victoria—a very different undertaking from today's walk. The railhead was at Korumburra, 140 kilometres from the lighthouse, and you had to walk from there. There wasn't a road to Tidal River and the Prom was largely unexplored.

Béchervaise was captivated by the granite tors and made further trips. In his parties he included a young woman he had met at Melbourne Teachers College, who later became his wife—Lorna Fearn-Wannan. They were to have three daughters and a son.

In 1935, following his marriage to Lorna, Béchervaise began what became a very creative association with Geelong College. He was appointed to the staff as warden of the House of Guilds—here, students were to receive help in any project 'from writing a sonnet to building a steam engine' the headmaster had told him. From this grew the Exploration Society, which was to undertake some major expeditions in Australia.

In the meantime, John's career at Geelong College was interrupted by a trip to the UK, where he studied art at the Courtauld Institute of London University. During his time in the UK he worked with Kenneth Clark and was director of art and headmaster of St George's School in Harpenden.

Béchervaise also took up a sport then unknown in Australia—rockclimbing. He quickly qualified to join the Fell and Rockclimbing

Club and the Climbers' Club of Great Britain. He was able to familiarise himself with the most advanced techniques then offered anywhere in the world. He climbed at most of the major rockclimbing areas in Wales and pioneered a number of new routes, developing skills he would use on his return to Australia—and pass on to many others.

The Second World War extended Béchervaise's stay in the UK. He was a conscientious objector, and reflected later that this position was accepted far more readily in the UK than it would have been in Australia.

In 1945 he returned to the staff at Geelong College, and there followed a series of blockbuster trips which still fire the imagination today.

Just off Wilsons Promontory lies a cliff-girt granite outcrop known as Rodondo Island. During the Second World War there had

been attempts to place an observation station on it, but a landing could not be made. To land a party of schoolboys on this island was a daring idea: this is what Béchervaise set out to do.

The hazards were formidable. There was only one conceivable landing place, and that could not be used if there was anything more than the slightest swell—so departure would have to await perfect weather conditions. Once there, it was a rockclimb up the cliffs. There wasn't any fresh water on the island, so equipment to distil sea water was required.

In 1947 Béchervaise and six others, including three teenage students, jumped from a small boat on to a steeply sloping slab of granite, taking care to pick the right moment in the surge of surf. They rockclimbed up cliffs to the vegetated crown of the island, where a base camp was established. During their nine days there, the group made a detailed survey of the island, later sending a number of specimens



Above, the return of the Kista Dan from Mawson in 1954. From left, Captain Peterson; Richard Casey, Minister for External Affairs; Phillip Law; Béchervaise. Alan Campbell-Drury. **Right**, The biscuit signed by members of the trip to Lake Tarli Karng, Victoria: As well as those of Béchervaise himself and Lord Somers, signatures of other well-known outdoors identities are discernible, including those of Bill Waters and Samuel Wilkinson. Brian Walters collection

to the National Herbarium in Melbourne.

In September 1948, hiring ex-army all-terrain vehicles, Béchervaise took his students to Uluru and Katatiuta (then known as Avers

Rock and the Olgas, respectively). Béchervaise made a solo ascent of Mt Olga, a serious climb, thinking he would be the first to do so. On the summit he found a note in a bottle. A policeman had climbed the route in the early 1930s.

The tracks left by the Geelong College party were scooped out a few months later to make the tourist road that is now taken by so many when they visit these icons of the Australian outback.

Federation Peak

The most memorable triumph of the Geelong College Exploration Society was the first ascent of Federation Peak in Tasmania's South-west in 1949. Federation Peak is a gigantic pillar of quartzite dominating a jumble of lesser peaks, and for years it symbolised the inaccessibility of the South-west.

The Geeves family had explored up the West Cracroft River in 1897 and in 1901 (the year of Federation) Richard Geeves

On 27 January 1949, using the rock-climbing skills he had honed during his years in the UK, Béchervaise led a party of three schoolboys towards the summit of Federation.

With a significant drop, the climb is very exposed. Merely to find the route was a major achievement. At last, the party reached the fabled summit.

'We were just lucky', Béchervaise told me. 'After 70 hours of rain the weather cleared at the critical time, and we were able to climb the peak. I took three students, and we put a rope over one difficult pitch.' Béchervaise was quick to acknowledge the great help of the Hobart Walking Club explorations.

It was front-page news around Australia. Aircraft photographed the handkerchief they had placed on the summit as proof of their ascent.

The plateau where the party camped is now named 'Béchervaise Plateau' in honour of his achievement.

Weren't parents worried about the dangers? Far from it. One father was so impressed that he chartered a plane to fly the entire triumphant party back from Hobart. Béchervaise had an enviable safety record.

I didn't think it was risky. I retained my sense of immortality at that time. We never had parents objecting to the risks and we never had an accident. It behoves a leader to say how a thing will be done. But in facing a challenge a link is forged between members of a party which is stronger than any other kind of link I knew in my teaching career.

Walkabout

Later that year Béchervaise was approached by Charles Holmes of the Australian National Travel Association and asked to become co-editor of the Association's magazine *Walkabout*. Many will remember this magazine, through which Béchervaise introduced Australians to some of the lesser-known parts of their country. Two of his articles from *Walkabout* have been reprinted in *Wild: Tasmania's Overland Track* in issue 63, and *Hinchinbrook Island* in issue 77.

The experience he recalled most fondly from his time at *Walkabout* was the expedition to the Archipelago of the Recherche, south of Western Australia, with a team of experts including botanist Jim Willis and zoologist Vincent Serventy. The party sailed 1600 kilometres through the group, visiting many beautiful and remote islands and making the first extensive biological survey of the area.

Heard Island

The Director of the Antarctic Division, Phillip Law, approached Béchervaise and invited him to lead the 1953 expedition wintering at Heard Island.

One of the peaks Béchervaise was not able to climb was Big Ben on Heard Island. In a party which included Fred Elliott, who

had accompanied him up Federation Peak, he was defeated by ugly conditions. He remembered it clearly:

The 16 November days on Big Ben, Heard Island, living for five days in a collapsed tent with its ridge pole two feet below the blizzard snow, and the hungry igloo built for survival and its burial also. Of such are enduring memories.

But Fred was able to save him when he fell into a crevasse:



In New Zealand with Walkabout magazine; a typical pose according to Fred Elliott! Elliott

The abrupt engulfment in a deep crevasse before gaining a safe way to the base is indelible. We were roped of course, but I shall not forget the cheerful face of Fred Elliott, well-belayed and ready to help me as I swung in the blue darkness.

Antarctica

In 1955 and 1959 John Béchervaise was officer-in-charge of Australian expeditions at Mawson in Antarctica. (He made a number of subsequent trips.)

He reflected:

There was a particular feeling about Antarctica when so few were there. In 1955–56 we were the only base within the Antarctic Circle, and there was a feeling of being part of the vastness.



The school group on Rodondo Island, Victoria, in 1947. Béchervaise is on the left. Fred Elliott

had actually reached the lake which now bears his name, on the south side of the peak—a remarkable feat.

In the late 1940s a number of walkers from the Hobart Walking Club made expeditions, pushing ever closer to Federation—the Holy Grail of bushwalking at the time. Various parties, of which key members were Nancy Shaw, Jessie Luckman, Bill Jackson, Nancy Smith, Ron Smith and Leo Luckman, made a series of intrepid trips and eventually found a way up Moss Ridge. On 23 December 1947 they reached the area now known as Béchervaise Plateau and ascended about 30 metres of the obelisk of Federation itself.

The following summer a strong party from the Hobart Walking Club led by Jack Thwaites made a further attempt to climb the peak. The party encountered bad weather conditions and did not succeed.

Béchervaise took 15 schoolboys to the area in January 1949, just after the Thwaites party had left. For 12 days he led them through trackless scrub and along swollen rivers to the base of the peak.

It was during the 1955 expedition that Béchervaise led the party which first visited the Prince Charles Mountains. He described it to me as the winter sun poured into his study:

After nine days travelling over the endless plains of Antarctica it became as if we were advancing over the curve of the earth. And then—it was like nothing I had ever experienced—a vast range of mountains loomed ahead in the clear air. Although sighted from the air a great distance

melted and ran down cracks in the rocks. It is still to be seen. As awe-inspiring may have been the storm when our two Beaver aircraft were dismembered and their parts scattered to the distant sea, leaving irreparable ruins. Somehow, with a good team, these misfortunes were met.

Geelong Grammar School

Back in Australia, Béchervaise taught at Geelong Grammar School between expeditions. There he introduced schoolboys to activities such as rockclimbing; one whose heart was fired was Chris Baxter, who accompanied Béchervaise on the first ascent of Tower Hill in the Grampians. (See the article in *Wild* no 60.) He also introduced boys to skiing, and took parties (again including Chris Baxter) on trips that involved extended summit camps on Mt Stirling. He told me:

School parties provided me with good and efficient company on holiday expeditions for 40 years.

On a long march, a delicate climb, a wet camp or a flooded stream I could count on them. All our journeying, our scrambling, our tramping, as well as offering physical challenge and adventure, were directed towards developing an understanding of the environment.

The cooperation of students and teachers all sharing both ease and hardship and a scientific interest in nature forged links which remained secure. I

World of Difference, won the Col Weickhart Award for Australian literature in 1968.

Other trips

In his mid-50s, when most men are beginning to run out of puff, he climbed a number of peaks in Central and South America including a solo ascent of Popocatepetl (5452 metres), which he described as 'my favourite mountain'.

Béchervaise also found time to accompany Warren Bonython (see his profile in *Wild* no 79) on many sections of his historic traverse of the Macdonnell and Flinders Ranges.

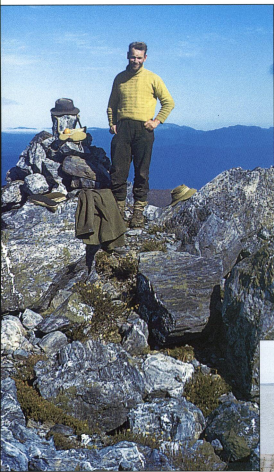
After his retirement he led treks in China and the Himalayas during the 1970s and he visited the Antarctic for the last time in 1980 when he was 70 years old.



It was during his busy retirement that I came to know him. He and his wife Lorna entertained us for lunches in their Geelong home. He showed me slides of the Antarctic, and Mt Ellery in East Gippsland when it was a three-week walk (now it is half an hour from the road). I still have the letters he wrote to me in his graceful draftsman's hand. One letter tells me of his stroke, and still the writing is pretty good.

Finally he became less active and after a long illness he died on 13 July 1998.

For those he took on challenging trips, for those he inspired through his books and magazine articles, for those who have simply heard of his adventures, he has left a legacy of love for wild places.



Béchervaise on the summit of Federation Peak in 1949 after making the first ascent of this Tasmanian icon. Elliott

away the previous year, no human being had ever been there before. It was as if we had created these mountains out of our own minds.

The prominent peak which he first saw is now called Mt Béchervaise (2362 metres—he had tried to name it Mt Law). It is not the only feature in Antarctica named after him: Béchervaise Island is the largest of a group near Mawson, and Lake Lorna in the Mawson Range honours his wife.

The 1959 Mawson expedition experienced considerable dangers. The power station burnt down and later an outlying base was also burnt. Béchervaise reflected:

Most vivid and terrible in the Antarctic is fire. I have experienced that when the metals

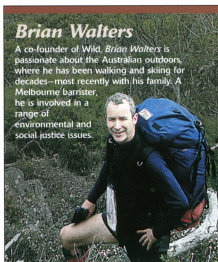


Béchervaise, left, and Fred Barton (Ranger) at Spermwhale Head, Gippsland Lakes, Victoria, in 1963. Chris Baxter

believe that for many the meeting of such youthful challenges is of lifelong benefit in one form or another.

Writing

Between all his other pursuits, Béchervaise remained an active writer, photographer and artist. In this capacity he published no fewer than 28 books, one of which, *Australia:*



Brian Walters

A co-founder of *Wild*, Brian Walters is passionate about the Australian outdoors, where he has been walking and skiing for decades—most recently with his family. A Melbourne barrister, he is involved in a range of environmental and social justice issues.

Explorers are of an age gone by, and today the nearest we get are adventurers. But John Béchervaise went to places where none had been before. He overlapped the ages of exploration and adventure. When I came to know him, visits to remote places were no longer possible for him. I asked him what motivated him in his life of exploration and adventure. 'Curiosity', he replied, and then paused to reflect.

If you want adventure—I mean real adventure—you can find it exploring your own backyard. 📍





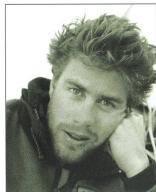
FOLIO

Nepal in the freeze-frame

From Gokyo Valley to Namche Bazaar,
by Matt Darby

*Most people climb Gokyo Ri to marvel at
views of Mt Everest but the best views might
be right outside the door of their tent!*





Matt Dorby has photographed rockclimbers in Thailand and heliskiers in New Zealand. His other passion is surfing. When not travelling Matt lives in Melbourne with his wife Caroline and dogs Priya and Coco. His next trip is to Tibet for the Litang Horse Festival.



Above, with views to rival any the Himalayas have to offer, try greeting the dawn from here on your next trek. A 'loo with a view'—early morning at Mon La, with views across to Phortse and Taboche. **Top**, trekkers are greeted with Buddhist carvings, views of Mt Everest (8850 metres) and the mighty South Face of Lhotse (8511 metres) on the way to Mt Everest Base Camp. **Left**, Looking down on the Sherpa capital of Namche Bazaar. At 3446 metres Namche is the gateway to the Khumbu region.

Across

Pleasure and pain in one of the most rugged wilderness areas

IT WAS A WALK IN TWO HALVES. DURING the first few days, we enjoyed the paradise of a delightful pristine watercourse in eastern Australia, swimming in countless crystal-clear pools. The horror of the second half transformed this pleasant amble into a desperate undertaking: the battle against the vegetation added to heat exhaustion, dehydration and fatigue, which took their toll on our resolve and composure.

'It looked so simple on the map' is the bushwalkers' infamous excuse. I was not the type to head off into the blue yonder extemporaneously. I strung together the route from several vague descriptions called 'Fitzroy Falls and Beyond', written by a group of dedicated bushwalking-conservationists who have compiled an extraordinary amount of information on the Morton National Park. Their pioneering heyday was in the 1950s and 1960s when the land between the Shoalhaven River and the sea was a blank on most maps. They could use many of the mining, logging and bridle tracks that snaked over the plateaux and through the rugged gorges, and much of the nomenclature is derived from their heroic exploits.

The start of the walk was little more than a muddy ditch on the side of the road and the faintest of scrubby gullies followed. Over the next few hours, the gully matured and the light scrub thinned. At times an active imagination could even detect the hint of a pad, albeit fleetingly. To our relief, Bullfrog Creek turned out to be a superb staircase down to the Ettrema Gorge. I am tempted to describe the descent as 'easy' because only one loose, steep section required a bit of a heels-and-bum scramble.

Ettrema Creek is covered with a thick layer of rubble that continues downstream for many kilometres, occasionally choked by the detritus from colossal landslides and rock avalanches. As we jumped from boulder to boulder, we wondered where on earth would we find a surface suitable for a campsite. There was nothing but stone everywhere, and at times the walls of the gorge descended all the way to the creek bed.

Although the many house-sized boulders markedly slowed our progress, their one advantage was that they dammed the creek's flow, creating pools of astonishing beauty. Unlike many of Australia's great watercourses, Ettrema Creek isn't stained by tannin but runs crystal clear for its entire length. Moss-covered boulders on the creek-bed give it a slightly green tinge when viewed from above, but the water is so



A study in wilderness: The Ettrema Gorge from Possibility Point.

Ettrema

n New South Wales, by *Sven Klinge*. All photos by the author



clear that even depths of several metres are almost transparent. This is somewhat disconcerting when diving in!

Two hours downstream from the Bullfrog Creek junction lies a wonderful camping area on the west bank, right next to four beautiful pools. This place is an anomaly as there are no other camp-sites upstream or down for several kilometres.

The three of us set up our three separate tents, a luxury against which our backs protested every time we donned our packs. In addition, each of us had our own private pool for bathing—do reef resorts get any better?

The trickle of cascading water is always conducive to a somnolent night and after indulging in a ten-hour sleep, we rose, bathed again and set off down the river. Eventually the terrain forced us into the water, so off went the boots and on came the sandals. In contrast to the previous day, this one was a scorcher, the start of a heatwave that would last a week. We were unconcerned at the time as we merely had to 'fall' into one of the many pools to make the stifling heat instantly disappear. How we would long for this in a few days' time.

The gorge twisted and turned tightly as we approached Sentry Box Canyon, some pools were so deep that we had to carry our packs on our heads as there was no way round. Luckily the creek was not in flood—otherwise we could easily have been trapped here. The canyon wasn't characterised by the strictly vertical cliffs that appear in its more orthodox counterparts in the Blue Mountains, but the dramatically steep, rocky slopes made for engaging walking and glorious pools.

We emerged at the other side of the canyon and dropped our packs at the confluence with Myall Creek, wandering up this side creek to the cold, deep pool that forms an almost insurmountable obstacle for parties using it as an avenue of descent. The waterfall was only a trickle here, and I looked up and wondered how I ever got down a few years ago. I must be getting older.

Black snakes love this middle section of Ettrema and we saw plenty, comparable with the notorious infestation on sections of the Kowmung River. Apart from the snakes, there were few signs of wildlife or even bird life. To compensate, the gorge opened up with spectacular views to soaring sandstone formations several hundred metres above us. We camped at a rough site right by Jones Creek underneath the impressive Thompsons Cliff. The spectacular quartzite wall bathed us in the reflected light of the setting sun although the remainder of the gorge was creeping into dusk.

Next morning we explored upstream a little before continuing further down Ettrema Creek. As the gorge grew wider, the pools became less frequent and therefore more necessary in the sweltering temperatures. We also saw our first gypie, a menace about which we had been warned. This is a tall tree with large, plate-sized, pale leaves covered with fine hairs that are actually poisonous barbs. Emma couldn't resist testing it and

sure enough—zap! Ouch! At least we knew the enemy. As it turned out this was the least of our problems in the days to come.

Even though each day's distance was only about 11 kilometres, it was always a race against the setting sun, and we ended up averaging only a kilometre an hour over the rocks. Of course, the many wonderful pools were a regular distraction.

The third night's destination was a camp-site near Tullyangela Creek but when we finally found it, it was completely over-

grown. A decade seemed to have passed since anyone stayed here. Furthermore, it is a considerable and awkward distance from water. We ended up staying in an open forest above another gorgeous pool opposite Cinch Creek.

We left early the next morning as our objective was to leave the Ettrema Gorge behind and drop into the next valley to the east. The Ettrema Plateau and a couple of cliff passes separate the two watercourses. Never had we felt more isolated; civilisation was two days distant in any direction.

Our first task was to head up Cinch Creek to reach a spur that would take us up to Pauls Pass. It is a cool creek with many

glassy pools surrounded by coachwood and other rainforest communities. Surprisingly, the GPS worked, so we were pretty sure of our location. An old rock cairn on a large boulder just upstream from a huge boulder block-up also helped to relieve our anxiety. We filled up with a total of nine litres of water and then began the gruelling ascent to the cliffs; Frank led the way.

My pack had never felt as oppressive as on that climb. Large embedded rocks that I assumed would take my weight overturned



Wading across Ettrema Creek near Sentry Box Canyon.

when I stepped on them and rolled down with a crash. The ground was loose and it was a case of three steps up and one back. Furthermore, there was scrub to negotiate and the gypie trees to dodge. Meanwhile the sun was getting higher and hotter.

Half the day had gone as we reached the base of the cliffs, resting again while we tried to determine which was the way to Pauls Pass. Eventually we headed west along the base and found it, marked by a large cairn. The pass was named after Paul Howard, a powerful bushwalker with an introverted mien, who discovered it during an epic walk with Paddy Pallin and others during Easter 1952. Amazingly, it was first identified by

stereoscopic aerial images taken by the army.

We had to haul our packs up by rope as they were too thick to fit between the very narrow crevice through which we were forced to squeeze in order to ascend the pass. Another obstacle was a narrow ledge that necessitated using an old iron spike that had been hammered into the cliff. The views of the Cinch Creek gorge, especially across to Perryman Falls, were awesome. We signed our names in a small logbook,

curious to read how often parties came through. The average seemed to be one every six months, and the book went back more than a decade.

On top, out of the shade of the cliffs, the heat hit us. Hard. Our morale sank as we surveyed the thick scrub. There wasn't a track! We bashed north to some open rock platforms and had lunch, deliberating what to do given that we were about three to four hours behind schedule. I was in favour of a quick reconnaissance out to Possibility Point before heading east. After all, there had to be some reward for our morning's efforts. Leaving Frank to rest in 'conservation mode', Emma and I dodged the scrub out to the promontory. It was difficult to enjoy the view as it was now the hottest part of a virtually cloudless February day. Therefore I'll leave it to Frank Peters, a pioneering Syd-

By now our water was depleting fast. We returned to our companion, Frank, and headed through the tea-tree scrub to the east, counting on an old road that ran to the south of Sturgis Hill which would, we hoped, make progress easier.

But the road was just a memory. Despite another GPS fix to confirm our position, it was little more than a couple of ruts in the heath. Many sections were almost completely overgrown with thick-stemmed bushes towering above us.

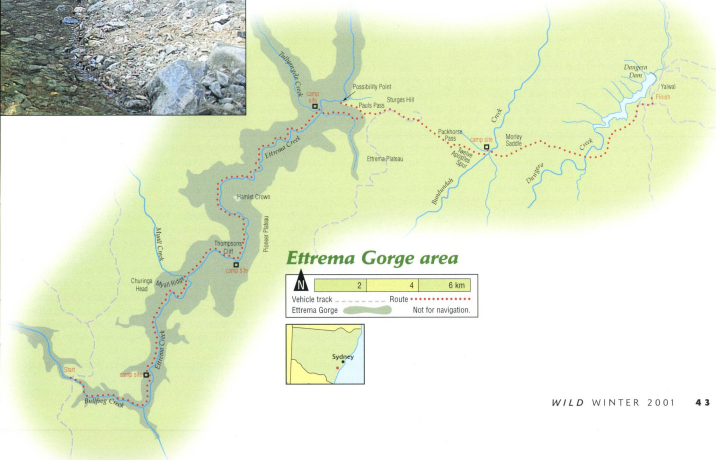
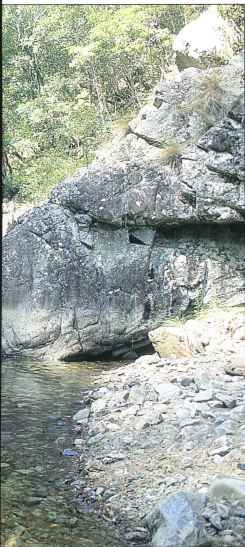
As we left this so-called 'road', we had only one litre of water left. Frank discovered a serious leak in his bottle at the same time as I found that the lining of one of the water bladders had ripped. The situation had deteriorated from serious to critical. We were aiming for Packhorse Pass, another route through the cliffs that would take us

'I finished my film with a self-timer group photo—a pathetic trio pervaded with ennui, looking like losers in an all-out knife fight.'

ney University bushwalker who crossed the gorge in 1951, using ropes. This was the very first recorded attempt by Europeans. He wrote in his diary about his impressions from Possibility Point:

The view from the cliff top is awe-inspiring. The valley is about 1500 feet deep, and stretching along either side is the longest stretch of unbroken cliffline that I have ever seen. The whole spectacle was one of grandeur, but frightening...

to Twelve Apostles Spur and then down to Bundundah Creek. The scrub was thick with acacias and young eucalypt saplings which not only made progress difficult but navigation, too, as we couldn't fix on to any landmarks. The vegetation stifled any wind at our level, leaving a suffocating heat. We were caught in an irreconcilable conundrum: Shorts and T-shirts to allow us to remain cool, or long-sleeved clothes to avoid the scrub? We chose the former.



Navigation was very troublesome as we approached the Bundundah valley; the terrain seemed to be forcing us to descend into narrow gullies into Selection Creek. It was nearly 5 pm when we reached the dissected cliff-edge and finally found Packhorse Pass to the south. The lone cairn that marked the pass should have been a sign that we had done something right but the going was about to get tougher. The pass was choked with a sea of vines and ferns

down for our longs. The all-important water of the creek was all we could think about as our containers had long been empty.

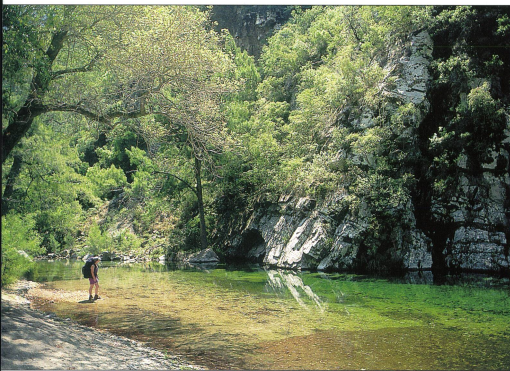
We almost fell into Bundundah Creek at dusk, limbs throbbing with the accumulated poison of the nettles. Even though we were still confronted with another full day's walking through thick scrub to get home, at least for the time being we were safe. We lapped up the dark water as we swam through it and made camp a little way downstream near

pathetic trio pervaded with ennui, looking like losers in an all-out knife fight.

The track ended abruptly and we were enveloped in more lawyer vines. Progress once again slowed to a few hundred metres an hour. In the midst of our imbroglio, we hugged the base of the cliffs and made our way around to the top of Fletcher Spur overlooking the Danjara valley. A few rock-cairns confirmed our GPS fix and we charged down to Belmore Flat. This time, only burrawangs lined the spur crest and fortunately the thickets were sparse enough to avoid.

At the bottom, the creek was stagnant and brown—the majestic, clear pools of Etrema were a world away. Once again, little remained of the former private property. It seemed as though the wilderness in this area had an insatiable hunger for colonial legacy. There could have been a city here once and no one would know.

It was now the hottest part of the day and our final climb was still to come. Should we wait for the day to cool down or proceed? The enticement of a shower, of solid food, of cold drinks was too much, so we elected to start. Our packs did not feel lighter as we headed up the very steep spur towards the Yalwal Plateau, following an old pad that wound its way across a multitude of gullies



It doesn't get much better than this.

and was guarded by several lone rock towers, the 'Twelve Apostles' after which the spur is named.

Descending spurs can be deceptive at the best of times; it's all too easy to head off down the wrong one and end up in a side creek thick with impenetrable rainforest. The ferns and vines on Twelve Apostles Spur were soon accompanied by spiky burrawangs that cut easily through the skin if you brushed up against them the wrong way. Each step was a battle and sections got so thick we had haul our packs through them. Almost inevitably, the wrong-spur problem arose and we were faced with the prospect of spending a horrible night on a steep slope with enormous appetites and without water.

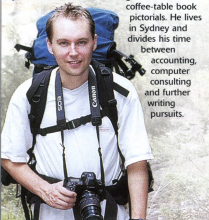
We tried another spur that seemed to be heading in the right direction, which lifted our spirits momentarily. Then the unthinkable happened. Stinging nettles. These weren't the ankle-high pest bushwalkers occasionally encounter near rivers, but a ferocious jungle of them, head high and tangled between all the branches and leaves of the other vegetation. Not only was it a race against time in the falling light, but now each step was a source of searing pain, without respite. We had neither the energy nor the willpower nor the space to set our packs and dig

the site of an old clearing, now overgrown with bracken. This was once a 60-acre private property selection where Jenny Atkins, the landowner, lived with her two daughters during the days when Yalwal was a bustling town.

That night was uncomfortable as the legacy of the stinging nettles subsided into a dull tingling that lasted until the morning. The blood from scratches upon scratches stained our sleeping-bags and we wondered whether all this was really worth it. We joked about how much money would induce us to go back up that spur. Bill Gates would have to file for bankruptcy.

The final day was also a scorcher and we had to face another climb with significantly reduced water-carrying capacity. We forced ourselves to drink from Strike Creek until we felt sick and left at 7 am to avoid the hottest part of the day. Atkins Spur was a pleasant aberrant; only lightly covered in scrub. As we approached Morley Saddle, we even picked up the remains of an old bridle-track that connected the Danjara and Bundundah Creek valleys.

The saddle was...a saddle. Nothing more. No views. Nothing. At this point we didn't care, we just wanted to get home. I finished my film with a self-timer group photo—a



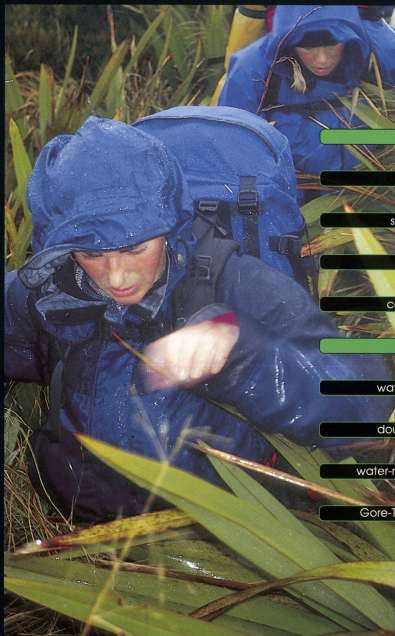
Sven Klinge

is the author of a number of outdoors publications that cover subjects ranging from walking and mountain biking to camping. His photographs have appeared in numerous publications, from advertising brochures to coffee-table book pictorials. He lives in Sydney and divides his time between accounting, computer consulting and further writing pursuits.

in between Belmore Flat and Danjara Dam. On one extremely steep section, we had to rest for ten minutes after every five, so oppressive was the summer sun. Pushing on would have induced retching and the onset of heat-stroke. For the third time, we were faced with running out of water.

Eventually the walking pad levelled, became a track and then—finally—a road. We staggered past old mine shafts and the slag-heaps of the gold-rush days. The car was a cheering sight at the deserted picnic area of Yalwal but our spirits took some time to recover. We had made it—bushwalkers turned raconteurs. Were we now better humans because of our ordeal, aggrandised by this baptism of pain? No. Would we take heed of this lesson? We'll see... ☹

Purposeful



COMFORT

neoprene cuffs

storage pockets

visored hood

compass pocket

PERFORMANCE

water-resistant zips

double storm flaps

water-resistant pocket

Gore-Tex® XCR fabric

Your purpose is to explore the remote areas of the wilderness; our purpose is to keep you comfortable and dry.

If you understand the importance of detail for achieving comfort, then you will appreciate the design and components that are the new **RESOLUTION** jacket. The Resolution utilises latest Gore-Tex® XCR fabric technology to give you 25% more breathability than classic 3-layer Gore-Tex® garments.

Now, your only boundaries are the ones you set yourself.

For a copy of our catalogue
visit your Macpac store,
call 0508 540 550, or
visit www.marpac.co.nz


macpac



SKI-TOURING FEATURE

Ski-touring in the Victorian



Alps



Ski Tracks on the Crosscut Saw

A winter adventure in the Victorian Alps, by *Tony and James Brown*

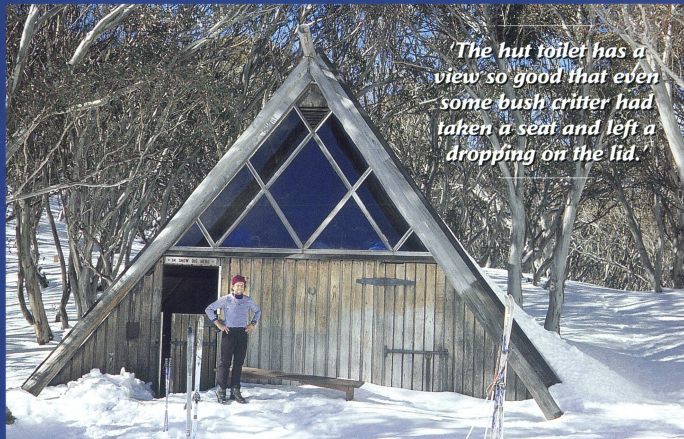
WITH EIGHT DAYS' FOOD, SAFETY GEAR AND an ample portion of rum, we two brothers, country GPs with seven children to our names and each a year either side of 40, took off. The first ten minutes of our ski trip were by far the most dangerous. Having caddged a lift from a passing four-wheel drive, we clung with all our might to the back of an exposed tray as we sped over logs and wash-outs and dodged overhead limbs. Finally we were deposited at the serene Cobbler Lake.

We may have Telemarked in Switzerland, the USA, Scotland, New Zealand and much of the available snow in Australia but we had not succeeded in a winter traverse of the Crosscut Saw in 25 years of back-country skiing. Previous attempts had been thwarted by ice and blizzards. On this trip we chose to approach the Crosscut Saw from Mt Cobbler, the Cobbler Plateau and Mt Speculation.

The snow cover was excellent and eight days of perfect weather followed our departure. The route took us up Mt Cobbler, whose snow-covered massif rises behind the lake of the same name. The first night was a camp at the point where the King River road reaches the Cobbler Plateau. The next day we spent skiing up Mt Koonika and across to Mt Speculation. That evening found us working the slopes of Mt Speculation. The camp was obscured by cloud and the wind made staying warm a challenge.

The next day was beautiful and the snow was soft. We began the traverse

The snow-laden Crosscut Saw from Mt Howitt, in the heart of the Victorian Alps. Michael Hampton



'The hut toilet has a view so good that even some bush critter had taken a seat and left a dropping on the lid.'

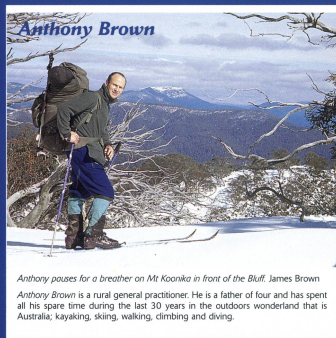
James Brown at Vallejo Gantner Hut, five-star accommodation with a toilet to match. Anthony Brown

across some of Australia's most 'alpine' terrain. The ridge of the Crosscut is very narrow with a steep drop on both sides. The route taken is often just in from the edge of a cornice and there are many vistas of cliffs and changing light on snow. The Victorian Alps topped by snow stretch as far as the eye can see. The Razor and the Viking were serene in the late afternoon sun. The experience brought a sense of blessedness; a sadness tinged

the satisfaction of completing the route that had evaded us for so long.

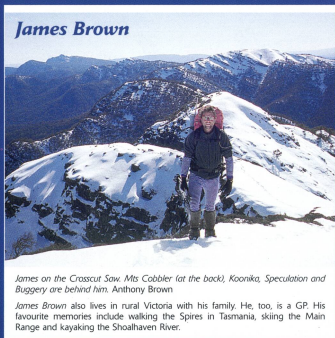
The Vallejo Gantner Hut at Macallister Springs was snowed in and had been unoccupied for months. The rats could smell a feed and were soon skittering across the snow in the hope of warmth and bread. The hut toilet has a large window with a view so good that even some bush critter had taken a seat and left a dropping on the lid.

There is a rocky outcrop on the nearby Devils Staircase, which looks across to the Crosscut Saw and the Terrible Hollow. We visited this place each morning to witness the dawn. As the first pink light of day strikes the Crosscut, the vapour trails of three early morning flights from Sydney to Melbourne advance over distant Mt Hotham like a trident. The image of plane loads of Sydney 'suits' heading south brought to



Anthony Brown

Anthony pauses for a breather on Mt Koonika in front of the Bluff. James Brown
Anthony Brown is a rural general practitioner. He is a father of four and has spent all his spare time during the last 30 years in the outdoors wonderland that is Australia; kayaking, skiing, walking, climbing and diving.



James Brown

James on the Crosscut Saw. Mts Cobbler (at the back), Koonika, Speculation and Buggery are behind him. Anthony Brown

James Brown also lives in rural Victoria with his family. He, too, is a GP. His favourite memories include walking the Spires in Tasmania, skiing the Main Range and kayaking the Shoalhaven River.

mind Viking longboats heading for new conquests.

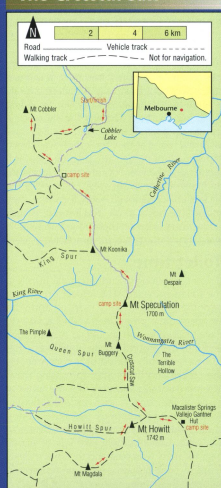
The whole trip was undisturbed by other humans or their traces in the snow. Our splendid isolation enhanced the beauty and exhilaration of the experience. The snow gum and the wedge-tailed eagle were our companions: Australia's snow country stands alone in these conditions.

We spent one day visiting Mt Magdala, which has great cross-country downhill slopes that match our ability. There is something very fulfilling about carving a linked Telemark line down a clean slope. This expression of human rhythm set on the canvas of a singular and proud mountain snow bowl is pleasing to the soul. We were joined by a wedge-tailed eagle that sometimes floated close to the snow and sometimes soared on the rising air currents, changing direction by only a graceful turn of its wedged tail.

On our return trip over the Crosscut the sun had softened the eastern slopes enough to enable me to ski down. Anthony said that I fell down the slope rather than skied—brotherly relationships always have an element of competition!

The snow was running out when we reached the Cobbler Plateau, so we reluctantly trudged the last few kilometres to the beautiful Cobbler Lake and back to our lonely car. 🐾

The Crosscut Saw



Skiing the Victorian Alps

Scott Edwards tells you where to go

MT COBBLER TO THE CROSSCUT SAW is certainly not a trip for the faint-hearted but there are numerous more relaxing, back-country ski excursions in the Victorian Alps. The key is to enjoy yourself but still be prepared to push your own boundaries—and then perhaps a bit further. It's about skiing often and skiing with your peers.

Ever wondered why some skiers are puffing, spluttering and panting their way up the trail while others glide effortlessly past? It's not all due to fitness; technique plays an enormous part. The first thing is to learn how to travel efficiently across snow and the quickest way is to get some lessons. You can try to get some pointers from friends, but bizarre terms like 'squash the bug' and 'point your headlights down the hill' are often more of a hindrance than a help. Get an expert who knows how to teach; it's worth every cent.

Lake Mountain is about one-and-a-half hours from Melbourne and has approximately 30 kilometres of undulating, groomed trails through picturesque snow gums. There is a ski school here so grab an instructor to give you a grounding in the basics. You'll learn techniques such as diagonal striding, skating and simple turns. These skills are invaluable when touring the back country; a more efficient style means less energy expended. Lake Mountain also has some excellent viewing points and a few small hills where you can practise your snowploughs, stem Christies and, eventually, Telemark turns. You can hire touring skis either in Marysville or on the mountain. Don't be put off by the skating freaks clad in embarrassingly tight psychedelic Lycra. Standard wet-weather bush-walking gear might seem daggy but it's suitable and sensible attire.

While touring the groomed trails can be fun, the back-country experience reaps the greatest rewards. Make sure that you are competent at map reading and using a compass—off-track skiing can be a dangerous pursuit. Always be prepared and carry energy food, water and protective gear.

Mt Stirling is about three hours from Melbourne and offers everything from groomed trails to off-trail touring. For the more adventurous, Stanley's Bowl has some excellent, steep skiing. Ski it at least once so that you can join the endless arguments about whether it's blue or black in grades of difficulty. The ski school at Telephone Box Junction (TBJ) can supply a range of touring and Telemark skis as well as boots. For a great day-trip, take the Stirling Trail up to the summit, play around on the slopes, then whiz back down to the TBJ café by the Bluff Spur trail. Stirling is an excellent place to make your first forays into snow-camping and ski-touring with a full ruck-

sack. Groomed trails lead to the summit area but it's best to camp near the Bluff or GGS Huts as they offer shelter in blizzard conditions and, most importantly, toilet facilities. Tending to nature's needs in the snow is a difficult and messy business (discussed later). Stirling is a relatively safe place but care should be taken around the summit as it can ice up quickly in bad weather.

Once you have your navigational skills well honed and your ski technique a little more polished, the options for trips become more diverse. **Mt Loch** (near Mt Hotham) has a variety of terrain to suit any level of ability. The downside of Mt Loch is its proximity to Mt Hotham. The upside is that it also offers some security if the weather turns nasty. Derricks Hut is a good base and plenty of easy tours can be made along the spurs running off the slopes of Mt Loch. There are some good, easy slopes near Derricks Hut but if you want to test yourself, scope out the runs off Machinery, Middle and Swindlers Spurs. Spargos Hut is also an option for camping and there are touring- and tree-runs nearby. The key to enjoying Mt Loch and its surrounds is to be prepared to explore the place.

'Don't be put off by the skating freaks clad in embarrassingly tight psychedelic Lycra.'

Mt Baw Baw in Gippsland has some excellent tours. A lot of them are below the tree line, which provides protection in bad weather. Care should be taken on the open plains due to exposure and potential visibility problems. I still bear the emotional scars of a failed trip to an obscure hut somewhere out in the plains. I'll carry to my grave the memory of a night spent with three other large, sweaty people in a cramped, raggedy old tent in the middle of a blizzard.

Close to Baw Baw is **Mt St Gwinear**, a favourite of beginners and intermediate tourers. Sheltered camp-sites abound and longer tours are possible. **Mt Erica** is worth a visit just for the granite boulders which litter that section of the Australian Alps Walking Track.

Falls Creek is a Mecca for Nordic racers but it's also the gateway to some great day- and extended tours into the Bogong High Plains. **Mt Nelse** is an excellent trip and a great base for reaching peaks and knolls in the area—such as Spion Kopje. There are also plenty of huts in the area with nearby camp-sites and snow-pole lines

to aid navigation. Care should be taken as some of the trails cross exposed areas subject to very strong winds. If bad weather does hit, there is a relatively fast escape route back to the safety of Falls Creek resort.

Are the turns happening? Happy to lug a ridiculously heavy pack up an impossibly steep mountain? If so, you're ready for some of the incredible terrain the Victorian Alps has to offer.

Mt Bogong, the highest peak in Victoria, abounds with steep gullies, chutes and open bowls. While offering some touring possibilities it's the steepes that draw the crowds. Cairn Gully is always a favourite amongst intermediate skiers and has some long runs leading to a refreshing creek at the bottom. For those looking for a challenge, Tombstone Gully area and Eskdale or Audax Points have quality steepes and plenty of rock obstacles to carve around. The runs of West Peak are extremely steep and should only be attempted by very experienced skiers. There is protected camping in the grassy areas around Michell and Cleve Cole Huts but in good weather, camping just off the summit peaks is a heavenly experience.

Mt Feathertop is often described as the jewel in the crown of Victorian ski-touring and certainly deserves that title. Some of the steepest skiing in Victoria can be found here and it's beginning to attract a variety of snowboarders, alpine and Telemark skiers. For intermediate skiers there are good slopes around Federation Hut, which is also a popular base for camping. North-west Spur features the MUMC Hut, an incongruous dome that stands out a little less since it was painted green. It's a great base for experi-

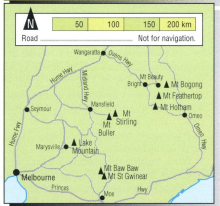
jacket, shell pants, synthetic fleece insulation layers and thermal underwear are the basis. Gaiters are also handy for keeping snow out of boots.

Boots. Footwear is one of the most hotly debated areas of XC skiing and it is complicated further by the diversity of skiing styles. Plenty of old-school skiers talk incessantly about the sensitivity only a cow-hide leather boot can give. Some swear by calf-high petrochemical monstrosities in go-fast

Skis. Another area of contention. For touring in the back country with a pack on your back, nothing beats a pair of full-metal-edged skis. Light, skinny skis are great on relatively flat ground but when the terrain steepens and the snow gets deeper, something fatter is more stable. For a good compromise between turning and touring, look for a ski somewhere around 80 millimetres wide at the tip, 60 millimetres at the waist and 70 millimetres at the tail. This will give you plenty of 'float' in deep snow and good



Victorian Alps

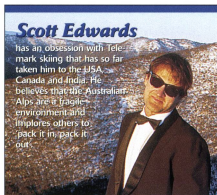


Heading to the Bogong High Plains from Falls Creek. Glenn Tempest

turning ability. A fatter ski will offer greater performance in turns but may require a stiff, heavy boot to drive it. A pattern base ski is often the best choice for beginners. A grip is cut into the base allowing the ski to claw its way up a hill. Pattern skis make a strange, whizzing sound as they track their way down the slope, not particularly melodic but intriguing none the less. For turning performance and speed, a smooth waxing base ski is the stick of choice although, sadly for some, they make little noise at all. You'll need to stick fiddly, furry skins on them to get up hills, so start with pattern skis for simplicity.

Toilet time

If you are touring or camping near huts, use the toilets provided. The impact on the environment is significantly reduced and who wants to dig a pit in deep snow? If you do have to dig one, you should go right through and into the ground below. Toilet waste has to be completely buried or it contaminates the creeks and rivers after the spring thaw. You may not like the idea, but the tenet of 'pack it in, pack it out' includes human waste! Some back-country users use a poop chute made from plumbing pipe with screw-cap ends. Others simply take lots of plastic bags for mass wrapping and to avoid spillage. Dispose of it properly on your return and preserve the alpine environment. ●



enced skiers only, as the return from the summit to the hut can be treacherous in icy conditions. It is wise to avoid the hut during the weekend of the first full moon in August unless you enjoy the company of inebriated university students. Also of note is the route to Mt Feathertop by the Razorback from near Mt Hotham. This ridge has incredible views and its own selection of steep fun slopes; definitely worth a tour for turns. It may be an easy tour but never attempt it in fickle weather as shelter is very hard to find.

Gear

Clothing. In the alpine environment you can experience extreme wet and cold weather but good-quality bushwalking gear is really all you need. A waterproof shell

colours. Their resemblance to downhill-skiing boots is almost uncanny except that they flex at the toe, but only with brute force. If bushwalking on skis is what you're into, a light pair of leather touring boots will certainly suffice. As your desire for turning performance increases, stiff leather boots, often with buckles, are required to transmit the power into the ski to make it turn. A lot of people bypass leather and get straight into plastic boots that are not only stiff but keep your feet dry. These range from light, forward-flex touring models to the performance-oriented, very stiff (and heavy) Telemark boots. It's best to start out with lighter boots, whether they are plastic or leather, and upgrade if steep downhill performance is required.

light+strong

assault II

Designed around an incredibly strong pole structure that utilizes 4 crossover points, the new **Assault II** is Fairydown's solution to the compromising demands of a truly multi-purpose 2 person adventure tent.

Featuring two side doors with roomy vestibules the **Assault II** has an innovative crossover pole design that allows for heaps of interior space. The stable dome structure, combined with multiple guy and peg points, make this a brilliant performer in winds from any direction or in heavy snow conditions.



Model: **Assault II** • High strength dome design • Continuous pole sleeves • 7001 T6 or optional Easton 7075 E9 Aluminium poles, locking pole tips • Hot tape seam sealed lap felled seams • Stormtech II fly fabric • Total weight 3.5kg • In use weight 3.1 kg
fairydown@arthurellis.co.nz www.fairydown.co.nz

Fairydown
proven in the world's extremes



Australia-wide service

Repairs and alterations
 to outdoor equipment
 and clothing.

[a greater outdoor experience]

Packs Tents

- Reproofing
- Alloy tent poles

Sleeping Bags

- Cleaning
- Down boosting

Clothing/ Rainwear

- Gore-Tex
- Fleece
- Ski wear
- Reproofing
- Cleaning

...and more

- Self-inflating camp rests
- Zippers
- Buckles

Level 3, 373 Little Bourke St, Melbourne, Vic 3000 Ph: (03) 9670 2586 Fax: (03) 9670 7412 Email: remote@mira.net

**It's
not just
another
GPS!**



**The new
SILVA GPS
Multinavigator**

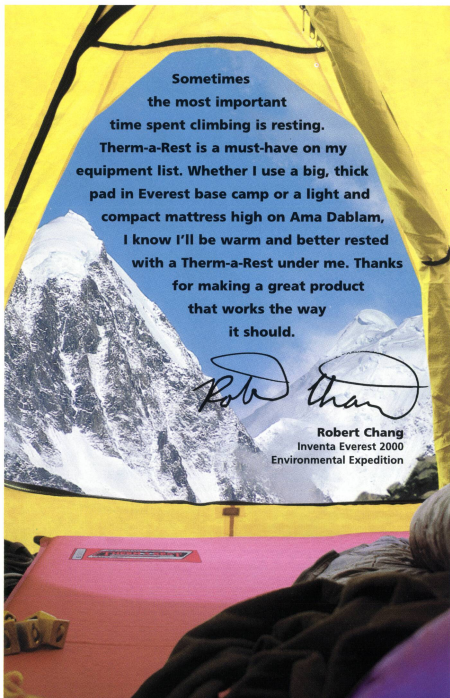
**with features unmatched
by any other GPS:**

- ◆ Electronic compass
- ◆ GPS navigation
- ◆ 1 m altimeter accuracy
- ◆ Barometer
- ◆ Weather forecast

**Only \$795
(including GST)**

For free, illustrated brochure
and your nearest stockist,
contact Australian distributors:

MACSON TRADING CO PTY LTD
44 Alexandra Parade
Clifton Hill, Melbourne, 3068
Tel: (03) 9489 9766
Fax: (03) 9481 5368
Email: info@macson.com.au
www.silva.se



Sometimes
the most important
time spent climbing is resting.
Therm-a-Rest is a must-have on my
equipment list. Whether I use a big, thick
pad in Everest base camp or a light and
compact mattress high on Ama Dablam,
I know I'll be warm and better rested
with a Therm-a-Rest under me. Thanks
for making a great product
that works the way
it should.

Robert Chang

Robert Chang
Inventa Everest 2000
Environmental Expedition



Self-inflating



LiteFoam™



Staytek® fabric

From major expeditions to family outings,

Therm-a-Rest has helped folks rest for
nearly 30 years. Self-inflating, insulating,
expedition proven and guaranteed for life.

THERM-A-REST®
THE ORIGINAL SELF-INFLATING MATTRESS

For the Rest of Your Life

For product information or a free catalogue call Grant Minervini Agencies Pty Ltd. Ph 1800 882 058
© 2001 Cascade Designs, Seattle WA • Engineering Tomorrow's Adventure For Nearly 30 Years.

**After 30 years,
we know which way is up!**



**Alpine
Guides**

**Aoraki/Mount Cook
New Zealand**

Winter:

- Ski Mountaineering
- Backcountry Courses
- Ski Touring

Summer:

- Guided Ascents
- Instruction Courses

What are you waiting for?



www.alpineguides.co.nz

Alpine Guides (Aoraki) Ltd, Bowen Drive (PO Box 20), Mount Cook 8770, New Zealand. e: mtcook@alpineguides.co.nz p: 001164 3 435 1834 f: 001164 3 435 1898

Wild
AUSTRALIA'S WILDERNESS ADVENTURE MAGAZINE

WEB SITE

Gateway to Australasia's outdoors

Visit the Web sites of these leading outdoors enterprises at the click of a button from the *Wild* Web site, **www.wild.com.au**



HIMALAYA Expeditions, Inc.



You can see all the latest *Wild* Directories and Classified ads on the *Wild* Web site.

See what's in the current issue of *Wild*, and order subscriptions, back issues, *WildGUIDES* and other *Wild* products **securely**.



www.wild.com.au

Mt Jagungal

Trevor Lewis puts in the legwork to visit this remote alpine "bushwalkers' mountain"



A lone figure climbs Mt Jagungal. Henry Gold

WHILE MT KOSCIUSZKO IS NOTEWORTHY only for its height, Mt Jagungal claims a central place in the hearts and minds of bushwalkers who frequent the Kosciuszko National Park, corresponding to the pivotal position it occupies in the topographical scheme of things. Its sprawling hog's back is a salient landmark from just about every other hill and mountaintop in the park north of the Main Range; while no less than three big rivers—the Tooma, Tumut and Geehi—begin their journeys on Jagungal's flanks.

The vast spread of rolling high country that surrounds Jagungal has plenty of scope for longer walks. The three-to-four day walk described here runs the gamut of landscapes typifying the northern Snowy Mountains

where treeless, frost-hollow valleys, plains and wetlands alternate regularly with snow-gum-wooded ridges and hilltops. Much of this walk is on tracks, or what the New South Wales National Parks Service likes to call 'management trails'. While these four-wheel-drive tracks run through a gazetted wilderness area, they seldom carry vehicle traffic, and are often hemmed in by bush, grassed over or well-carpeted with forest litter. There are opportunities for off-track walking—but the abundant subalpine scrub makes the tracks the pleasantest way into the country.

In these track notes I've used the huts as convenient staging points, but I don't suggest that you rely on them for shelter. This walk intersects many perennial streams and passes

numerous potential camp-sites. If you want to avoid the crowds, particularly on long weekends, you'll be happiest making your own itinerary, and camping where you like.

When to go

This is a three-season walk. In late spring (mid-October to the end of November) you can seek out the first flowers and make the most of the lengthening days while the insect population remains largely dormant. Come mid-summer, the flowers will be at their best, and you'll benefit from temperatures significantly lower than in the sweltering lowlands. But you'll battle hordes of March flies and abundant mosquitoes. Autumn brings relief from

the insects. Heavy frosts become common in April and May, often melting into mellow days. If you venture out at this time of year, your sleeping-bag should be capable of coping with subzero temperatures.

Miserable weather, in one form or another, can occur at any time of the year. For the duration of the ski season, management routinely closes the road between Khancoban and Cabramurra; however, parties can arrange, through the park's office in Khancoban, to be transported to the snowline. Winter ski tours fall outside the scope of this article.

Safety

Some cold-weather clothing, and a full set of rainwear, should be in your kit at any time of the year. In summer you should also take care to protect yourself from sunburn.

I have always felt free to drink from any river and creek in the wilderness areas of the park. But if you want to be safe, avoid drinking from any stream with a hut in its catchment. That'll still leave you plenty to choose from.

Maps

While the *Khancoban* 1:50 000 Central Mapping Authority sheet provides the best available coverage, navigation is straightforward, and the *Kosciuszko* 1:100 000 Natmap sheet will suffice. Stuart Brookes' map of the Round Mountain/Dargals area.

Further reading

Two major guides to walking in the park were last published more than a decade ago, and copies could be hard to find. They are *Snowy Mountains Walks*, compiled and published by the Geehi Bushwalking Club; and Charles Warner's *Bushwalking in the Kosciuszko National Park*.

Mountains Highway to the east, and with the Murray Valley Highway to the west. You could make the walk almost a full circuit by continuing from the Round Mountain area on the Theiss Village Track, and reaching the road at Out Station Creek or Tooma Reservoir; this will leave you with a manageable three to five kilometres of road-bash to retrieve your vehicle.

You can car-camp the night before setting out at the Clover Flat rest area two kilometres west from the Snakey Plain Track head; the Bradleys Hut rest area is similarly convenient to the Round Mountain Track head.

The walk

Snakey Plain Track head to Wheelers Hut

The track head is inconspicuous and modestly signposted. A locked barrier and walkers' registration book greet you. The track undulates before starting a steady climb which

a clear lead or two going upstream beside Snakey Plain Creek; once out of the valley and on to the slopes, you'll come across a good deal of scrub. Finally, you'll feel that you're getting somewhere worth while as the forest thins out, granite slabs and outcrops break up the scrub, while farmlands in the upper Murray valley come into view an impressive 1400 metres below.

Then comes the anticlimax of the summit. It's a small and densely forested plateau that lacks an obvious highest point. At the plateau's southern edge, a lookout on the brink of a rocky drop-off gives an unusual perspective on the Main Range and the Grey Mare Range; in the foreground is the long ramble of the spur running all the way down to Bradneys Gap, just outside Khancoban.

This spur may suggest a challenge for the avid off-track walker; but those happy with a more modest achievement will retrace their route, or perhaps take another direction in the faint hope of finding a less scrubby alternative. You may even try for the nearby sum-



Take a seat on the verandah of Wheelers Hut for a great view of Mt Jagungal.

Stephen Curtain

mit through a belt of alpine ash. Higher slopes have views of Tooma Reservoir before levelling-off into dense snow-gum forest.

A sudden descent brings you into the narrow, winding natural clearing of Snakey Plain. A set of solar panels and other unexpected infrastructure dotting the plain serve a project which is monitoring the corroboree frog population.

Snakey Plain is only a couple of hours' walk from the road, but you might want to camp here if you intend to visit Dargal Mountain; this short side-trip requires several hours of rough walking.

Don't waste time searching for the vehicle track shown on the Natmap sheet, which heads through the saddle between Dargal Mountain and Big Dargal Mountain—it seems to have vanished without a trace. You'll find

mit of Big Dargal Mountain; but entries in the logbook at Wheelers Hut suggest that it's an unrewarding slog.

Leaving Snakey Plain, the track dips into a gully and passes beneath a scatter of alpine ash. This is a taste of things to come as you'll soon be striding through a magnificent stand of these trees. Tall, thick-trunked, spaced well apart and sheltering a sparse understorey, these forest giants create a cathedral-like atmosphere that will make the next kilometre of track a highlight of your day.

A final descent brings you into the extensive frost-hollow basins of the Tooma valley. Where the track bottoms out and starts to climb again, an inconspicuous side track branches off to Wheelers Hut. Even if you don't intend to use the hut for shelter, it's well worth an inspection. In place of the

the walk AT A GLANCE

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Grade | Medium |
| Length | Three to four days |
| Type | An alpine peak among sub-alpine valleys and high plains |
| Region | The Snowy Mountains |
| Best time | Mid-October to late May |
| Special points | Subtle changes in vegetation and landscape, sense of space and remoteness |

Access

The walk starts at Snakey Plain Track head and finishes at Round Mountain Track head; the start and finish lie some 13 kilometres apart on the Kiandra-Khancoban road. This major sealed road links with the Snowy

GO DOWN

Siberian 800 Loft

**Rick White
Signature Series**

- Best down in the world
- Hand-picked Siberian goose-down
- Hot-cut shells, for longer life
- Custom made
- Variety of unique designs
- Selection of fabrics and colours
- Deal direct and save

Phone (07) 5426 1007,
fax (07) 5426 2643

www.rwsigseries.com

YOUR ONE STOP MAP SHOPS



MELBOURNE'S MOST
COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

SPECIALTY BUSHWALKING
MAPS

BUSHWALKING
BOOKS AND GUIDES



COMPASSES,
GPS RECEIVERS
AND NAVIGATION ACCESSORIES

ON-SITE LAMINATING WHILE-U-WAIT

MAIL, PHONE, FAX, EMAIL ORDERS MOST WELCOME
CREDIT CARDS & EFTPOS AVAILABLE

At Two Handy Locations



Melbourne Map Centre

738-740 WAVERLEY ROAD, CHADSTONE, VIC. 3148

Phone : (03) 9569-5472 Fax : (03) 9569-8000

259 HIGH STREET, KEW, VIC. 3101

Phone : (03) 9853-3526 Fax : (03) 9853-4888

email : info@melmap.com.au internet : www.melmap.com.au

www.jagged-globe.co.uk

Worldwide Mountaineering Specialists

- Mountaineering
- Private expedition support
- Canadian ice-climbing
- New Zealand climbs and courses



Formerly Himalayan
Kingdoms Expeditions

Himalayan trekking peaks and professionally
guided, high-altitude mountaineering
expeditions, including the Seven Summits.

Jagged Globe

PO Box 133, Hampton, Victoria 3188

Tel: (03) 9598 2922 Fax: (03) 9533 5599

Email: gsports@ocean.com.au

**Contact Jagged Globe for your
FREE colour brochure**

made for
the toughest
people on earth

makalu

quality
mountain
clothing

TECHNICAL MOUNTAIN JACKETS SALOPETTES
WINDSHIELD EXPEDITION & MICROFLEECE

Call 0408 557 208 Email: info@makalu.com.au

Web: www.makalu.com.au

corrugated iron common to most huts that date back to the grazing era, the walls of Wheelers are built of rough-hewn slabs—and the floorboards likewise—derived from the alpine ash so abundant on the valley slopes above. This hut also has the luxury of an east-facing verandah, complete with a view of Jagungal.

Wheeler's Hut to Derschkos Hut

A short stretch of off track walking takes you from Wheelers Hut to the Dargals Track. You'll cross a couple of gullies on the way, one of them containing mounds of gravel which are relics of the Toolong gold rush. A less welcome sight, here and everywhere in the grassy valleys of the subalpine zone, are the excavations made by feral pigs.

After crossing Broadway Creek, you may need to wade through patches of bossiaea scrub before you reach the Dargals Track at its junction with the Hellhole Track. The latter runs parallel to the Tooma River, fords it and then tries to live up to its name by taking you on a strenuous climb out of the valley. Having gained the plateau of the Toolong Range, the track undulates and skirts the high plains before joining the Round Mountain Track, which quickly takes you to Derschkos Hut.

This functional, modern shelter once housed Snowy Mountains Authority workers engaged in measuring snow-pack and stream flow. It nestles in a picturesque, small valley strewn with granite boulders. If you've kept your eyes on the ground, you will have noticed a frequent alternation between such outcroppings of Snowy Mountains granite and the subtly different land-forms derived from older, metamorphic rocks. On the low ridge south-east of the hut you'll find camp-sites with views across the high plain of Bogong Swamp to Jagungal, which now looms very close.

If you have daylight to spare and the weather is kind, you'll be itching to make the ascent. Take the Round Mountain Track to its signposted junction with the Grey Mare Track; take the left-hand fork to its crossing of the Tumut River's head-water stream. Just past the ford, a cairn marks the beginning of a foot track. Unmarked on the topographic maps, this pad burrows through a belt of subalpine scrub and ascends to the long ridge running south-west from the summit.

The climb eases and the track dwindles as you enter the alpine zone and slide beneath crags and mounds of volcanic rock to reach the grassy ramp that angles up from the south. On this final stage your party should spread out and zigzag a little—the fact that Jagungal does not (yet) have a beaten path to the very summit is one of the things that make it special.

Having surveyed the view and savoured the ambience of this singular mountain, you may retrace your route. For the sake of a round trip, you could descend from the 'North Peak' and pick up another, unofficial track that will reunite you with the Grey

Mare Track near the weather station (which the Natmap depicts as a 'gauging station').

Derschkos Hut to Round Mountain Track head

Many walkers use the Round Mountain Track to get back to the road; if you're short of time or energy, it is a sensible choice. But it's scenically dull and receives a fair amount of management use. It has bridges over the creeks and gravelled sections—generally it feels more like a road than a track.

A longer but more pleasant alternative is to use the Grey Mare Track and then the Farm Ridge Track. You'll pass O'Keefes Hut, another relic of the grazing era full of character and decrepitude. Should you consider staying overnight here, be warned that the hut has a resident possum.

A little further on, the track drops suddenly to cross Bogong Creek in its steep-sided valley. An equally abrupt climb gets you on to Farm Ridge where, at the site of an old stockyard and a long-vanished hut,

it would be giving the game away to reveal their exact location. You'll need to cross and recross the river many times.

You'll know that you're near the end of the river traverse when its serpentine windings give way to a long, straight section. At its downstream end, the Farm Ridge Track comes into view. For some distance you will have seen evidence of the 1988 bushfire, which left whole swathes of country bristling with dead timber. On the climb out of the valley the track leads from unburnt to burnt and vigorously regenerating forest, and back again. You'll pass Round Mountain Hut, which narrowly escaped the conflagration and, shortly beyond, reach the Round Mountain Track.

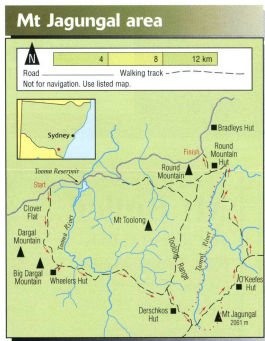
The walk is nearly over but if you're not in a hurry you should spare an hour or so to climb Round Mountain. While this basalt hillock rises a modest 150 metres above the surrounding plateau, its isolated position makes it a splendid vantage point. Approach it by going back along the Round

Mountain Track as far as Cool Plain; or continue to the track head and stroll along the road to the point nearest to Round Mountain's slopes. Either way, you can expect to begin with a scrub-bash which soon gives way to an unobstructed climb through gnarled snow gums—some of them, sad to say, killed by the 1988 fire. The summit makes a fitting finale; from here you can survey all the country through which you've walked during the past several days, as well as the whole sweep of the northern Snowy Mountains from the Main Range to the Bogong Peaks and the Brindabellas.

Finally, a word about extending the walk along the Theiss Village Track: be warned that this track is very overgrown and difficult to follow in places. The fact needs underlining, because the Khancoban sheet depicts a fully intact four-wheel-drive track—as does the information board at the Round Mountain Track head. The track begins clearly enough on Cool Plain, but you're almost certain to lose it among post-bushfire regrowth and log-jams on the descent to Ogilvies Creek. From the latter point it becomes easier to head down-valley to the disused quarry and pick up the old road that served it. Despite occasional fallen timber, the road makes for a straightforward and pleasant stroll through alpine-ash forest. Eventually you will reach the bitumen at Out Station Creek.

Whether you finish on the high point of Round Mountain or by chasing a phantom track through labyrinths of scrub, you'll be sure to carry home a swag of impressions from your visit to an alpine peak that may not be Australia's highest, but ranks among its most beautiful and distinctive. 🍌

Trevor Lewis lives in Canberra, where for the past decade he has worked in residential care and the training of people with disabilities. He has been a keen bushwalker since his school days, and has walked throughout south-east Australia (including Tasmania), New Zealand and the Himalayas. He has occasionally contributed to *Wild* ever since the very first issue.



the Farm Ridge Track branches off. The last time I walked the full length of this track, in the autumn of 1997, it seemed to be reverting to a true 'walkers only' thoroughfare. In some places dual ruts had formed a single pad; in others, well established detours bypassed fallen trees.

The highlight comes when the track descends to meet the Tumut River. The little creek across which you stepped earlier in the day has already matured to a wide torrent running in a deep and dramatic valley.

A third possibility for this leg of the trip is simply to follow the Tumut's windings down from where the Grey Mare Track crosses it, or from somewhere nearby. You won't come across any major scrub, and you'll enjoy a distinctive landscape made all the more delightful by the fact that so few walkers seem aware of the route's existence. Several waterfalls and cascades await discovery, both on the main stream and its tributaries;

STAY
AHEAD OF
THE
WEATHER...

WITH A
GLANCE
AT YOUR
VECTOR.

5540055/HPA



Altimeter, barometer, electronic compass, and all the features of an advanced timepiece. Vector makes it happen on a large, easy-to-read digital display. Anywhere. Vector is the winner of the European Outdoor Award, "Product of the Year 1999/2000"

**SUUNTO
VECTOR**

Sheldon and Hammond Toll Free 1800 808 971

ALTIMETER
BAROMETER
COMPASS
WATCH



ALTIMAX



NAVTEC



X-LANDER

www.suunto.fi

From the creators of the best-selling resource,
Forest Friendly Building Timbers,
The Wilderness Society and
Earthgarden Magazine introduce



Introducing the One-Stop resource for
environmentally friendly wood products
and alternatives including:

- Timber products and suppliers
- Recycled timber stocklists
- On-line search facility
- Forest-friendly timbers for new homes
- Timber alternatives—extensions/renovations
- Finishes and preservatives
- Paper- and fuel sources
- 'Green' architect- and builder contacts
- Forest information and campaigns
- News and consultancy services

TELEPHONE 03 9639 5455 or 0413 279 223
FAX 03 9639 5466 EMAIL timbershop@wilderness.org.au

www.timbershop.wilderness.org.au

Mt Buller...

The place to study
for a career in the
Outdoor Recreation
Industry

If you are seeking a
career in the outdoor
recreation industry,
this is a unique
opportunity to study,
work and live in the
alpine resort of
Mt Buller.

Australian Alpine Institute
PO Box 58, Mt Buller, 3723. 71 056 764 080
Tel: (03) 5733 7000



**LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY
MT BULLER**

a hard rain's gonna fall ...



It can get pretty ugly out there — the weather, that is.

Clouds start brewing, blackening, a chill rolls through, an ominous warning of what's ahead — then the heavens open up.

No problem.

You can be comfortable and totally dry. **Hydronaute™** waterproof breathable fabric by Mont Adventure Equipment outperforms the rest.

Tested to extremes, and now used exclusively throughout the Mont shellwear range.

You can rely on **Hydronaute™**.



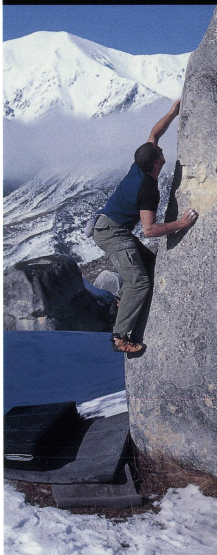
See our comprehensive range of products online
www.mont.com.au

Mont Adventure Equipment The Australian company with over 20 years of manufacturing excellence



When your sanity depends on it.

Jodi Apiata winter bouldering at Castle Hill Basin, New Zealand.

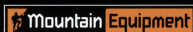


NEW winter catalogue out now.
Call or email us for a **FREE** Copy.



Sydney 491 Kent St [02] 9264 5888
Chatswood 72 Archer St [02] 9419 6955
Hornsby 106 George St [02] 9477 5467

email: info@mountainequipment.com



The Bogong High Plains

Above the tree line in some of Victoria's most celebrated high country, by *Stephen Curtain*. All photos by the author

FOR EVEN THE MOST SEASONED WALKER, the allure of the Bogong High Plains (in the northern Victorian Alps) is undeniable. Once you reach the crest of a fairly modest knoll in those wind-swept, grassy-tussock plains, the simplest of walking pleasures becomes apparent—the freedom, it seems, to journey in any direction. The vast breadth and width of this alpine expanse ensure that there is more than enough space for you to be ‘truly lost’. A two- or three-day trip in the south-west district is a serene experience. Starting from the Mt Loch car park, descend into the forested valley of the Cobungra River before you regain higher ground; you can make a comfortable camp near an unassuming but attractive peak: Mt Jim. The following day, after descending into another river valley, the ascent of a rewarding, off-track route on Machinery Spur will reinvigorate your mind

and body as the completion of the walk draws near. The walk described in this article is a true ‘alpine circuit’—one that may engender a deeper sense of Australia’s alpine heritage.

When to go

The best time to go is in spring/early summer when the daytime temperature is pleasantly cool, the wild flowers begin to emerge and the supply of drinking-water from creeks is plentiful. In winter, travel is not recommended because of deep snow.

Safety

If the walk is undertaken in two days, an early start—say, 8 or 9 am—is recommended for both days. Be sure to fill your water-bottles

before you start the first day’s walk. A magnetic anomaly exists in the Mt Jim area; this may wreak havoc on your compass—be sure to rely upon other means of navigation (for example, line of sight). Where possible, be sure to use hut toilets (rather than digging a hole); this practice ensures that water-borne nasties do not spread to potable water-supplies.

Maps and references

The best map to use is the *Bogong Alpine Area 1:50 000* (Outdoor Leisure Series) map. *Bushwalking in the Alpine National Park*, by John Siseman, 1997 (MacStyle), is handy for background walking information. *The Mountain Pygmy-Possum* by Ian Mansergh & Linda Broome (1994, New South Wales University Press), is a good read.



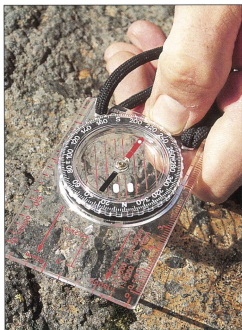
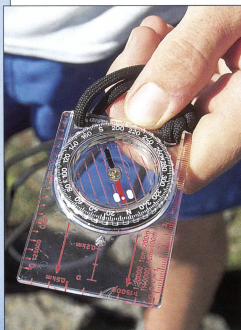
Access

From Melbourne, take the Hume Freeway and the Great Alpine Road to Bright. Continue south along the Great Alpine Road, through Harrietteville. High up the road, ignore the turnoff to Dargo. Park in the Mt Loch car park, which is on the left side just before you reach the Mt Hotham alpine village. If you arrive at the village, you've missed the car park. Alternatively, it's possible to travel to the start of the walk from the south, from Gippsland, by way of Omeo and the Great Alpine Road.

The walk

Mts Feathertop and Buffalo reside faithfully to the north and north-west, re-

Nick Byrne rests awhile, admiring remnant snow on Mt Feathertop.



Above left, magnetic anomaly, part one. A north bearing on Mt Jim. Above right, magnetic anomaly, part two. The bearing after the compass is lowered one metre!

spectively, as you arrive at the Mt Loch car park. Write your details in the intentions book at the walkers' information stand. Begin the walk by heading north-east along a vehicle track—also marked, at this early stage, as the Australian Alps Walking Track (by blue-triangle and yellow-diamond markers). Ignore a number of side foot-tracks in favour of the vehicle track that keeps largely to the crest of the ridge. Soon you may glimpse a cairn (and a plaque) atop a small knoll—this

is a reminder of winter's fury, commemorating the life of Charles Derrick, a ski tourer, who perished nearby in a snow-storm in September 1965.

At Derrick Col (the lowest point on the ridge), take the walking track steeply upward—ignore the vehicle track that veers left. Higher up, this walking track rejoins the vehicle track. Continue along the latter. Soon you will reach a signposted junction. Ignore the left-hand sign. The right-hand sign indicates a track that leads to Derricks Hut (1.3 kilometres, 20 minutes away) and Dibbins Hut (5.5 kilometres, two hours away). Take this right-hand track (south) as it skirts the boundary of the Mt Hotham alpine ski resort. To the west, beyond the village of Mt Hotham, the Blue Rag Range rears its head above a criss-cross network of trails and lifts. Soon you will reach Derricks Hut, which is set amongst snow gums. Water may be available from the tank inside.

Continue along the AAWT and down Swindlers Spur. Tantalising glimpses of the summit crown of Mt Feathertop (strewn with snowdrifts in early spring) are possible through the treetops before you reach the Cobungra River valley—a lush oasis on a hot summer's day. A short distance west along the valley floor resides Dibbins Hut—

the walk AT A GLANCE

Grade Hard

Length Two (hard) or three (moderate) days

Type Subalpine/alpine, mountain rivers, tall forests

Region North-east Victoria, Bogong High Plains

Best times Spring/early summer

Special points Be prepared for four seasons in one day



ALPINE INSTRUCTION NEW ZEALAND & MOUNT ASPIRING GUIDES

Team of Specialists
UIAGM and NZMGA guides
Operating in Mt Cook/Aoraki,
Aspiring, Westland, Fiordland
National Parks

- Ski and snowboard back-country touring
- Winter back-country awareness courses
- Ski-mountaineering (ascent/descent)
- Summer mountaineering courses
- Private guiding and private instruction
- South America
- Ascents of NZ's classic peaks

Web: www.MtAspiringGuides.co.nz
Email: alpinenz@tra.co.nz
Phone: +64 3 443 9422
PO Box 345, Wanaka, New Zealand



Australian School of
Outdoor Technical
Training



ASOTT provides a full range of
Professional Qualifications up to
SRO 50299 Diploma in Outdoor
Recreation and Cert IV in
Assessment and Workplace
Training.

We will recognise your existing
experience & training through RPL,
establish your learning aims and
manage your learning process
through to your goal.

Nationally Recognised Accredited
Qualifications: essential work
tools, the first step to a new career
or simply peace of mind.

ASOTT also offers a range of non-
accredited training including Canyon
Water Rescue, Industrial Rope
Access, Gym to Rock conversion
and Aid Climbing.

Contact us for more information on
(02) 4751 8711, 1800-ABSEIL
or info@asott.nsw.edu.au, or see
the web site www.asott.nsw.edu.au
for a full list of courses, dates
and information

OUTLAND EXPEDITIONS VIA AUSTRALIAN
SCHOOL OF OUTDOOR TECHNICAL TRAINING

ALL ROPE & PADDLE SPORTS • VERTICAL & WATER RESCUE
LEADER TRAINING • REMOTE AREA FIRST AID • NAVIGATION & BUSHWALKING
SAR & EMERGENCY RESPONSE • CLIMBING GYM SUPERVISION

meindl@bigpond.com Visit our Website: www.stagersport.com'."/>

**Bhutan
Pakistan
Nepal
India
Sikkim
Tibet
Central Asia
South America
Japan
China
Vietnam
Antarctica
Mongolia
Middle East
Central America
Australia
Morocco
East Africa
The Silk Road
Iran
and more...**



Welcome to our World!

With over 140 amazing itineraries to every continent on earth, now is the time to get your copy of our Adventures 2001/02 brochure and experience our unique world of quality, small-group journeys, adventures and expeditions.

Since 1975, we have been committed to providing our travellers with high-quality experiences following a low-impact philosophy at very competitive prices. Our expert guides and staff, including eight Everest summiteers, will give you rare and exciting travel opportunities to some of the world's most stunning wilderness areas.

To find out how you can be part of our worldwide trekking, cycling or mountaineering programs as well as our Over 50s, Natural & Cultural History, Adventure Touring, Cruising, Festival and Family Adventures, ask for a copy of our Adventures 2001/02 brochure. Trips are suitable for first timers to the more experienced traveller.

Call for your FREE colour brochure on
1300 720 000 or visit
www.worldexpeditions.com.au

WORLD EXPEDITIONS

small group journeys, adventures & expeditions

built in 1920 by Arthur Dibbin. It replaced the original hut known as the 'Creep Inn'. Time may have passed, but the unwary visitor can still collect his or her scalp on the low doorway just as in the old days!

The hut makes a pleasant spot for lunch; otherwise walk a short distance downstream through tall grass to rest beside the river. After a well-earned snooze, cross the river and continue steeply up the walking track. At pole 232 leave your pack for a five-minute side-trip (south) to ascend Basalt Temple—a jumbled outcrop of loose, hexagonal-shaped, basalt columns. Be careful. After savouring the view, return to your pack to continue up through the snow-gum woodland.

Soon you will leave the company of the trees to strike out on to the Bogong High

Day two

Head towards the west side of Mt Jim, then briefly contour its north-western slope. You should be able to find a faint foot track here that leads to the summit. Otherwise you can make your way up easily enough. Mt Jim has its own inimitable charm, stocked with a diverse range of natural features. It rises barely 40 metres from its surroundings and I must have lumbered past this pimple of a peak countless times over a decade before I gained its summit in November 2000.

From Mt Jim's northern flank, peer down upon an impressive, chaotic block-stream—a 'river' of blocks formed from the alternate freezing and thawing of basalt rock. In the

pygmy possum (*Burramys parvus*). The shrubbery veil of *Podocarpus* helps to cool *Burramys* in the heat of a summer's day. It is generally accepted that regional temperatures are rising and it is therefore of great concern that the future of this small creature remains uncertain.

Mt Jim is also the source of an extraordinary magnetic anomaly. Place your compass on the ground. Then raise the compass, say, a metre or so in the air. Are you suitably impressed?

Antics aside, from the summit of Mt Jim head north for about 700 metres towards a pole-line junction numbered pole 333. Along the way, tread carefully on rocks and boulders only to avoid trampling on fragile sphagnum bogs (often coloured vibrant-green). These works of nature are custom-built sponges that slowly release water all year—a vital component in the birth of all rivers that rise in the Australian Alps.

From the pole-line junction 333, turn left (west) to gain a slight rise. From here, the eastern fall of Mt Feathertop—Victoria's quintessential alpine peak—is an all-consuming sight. Discard your pack and plop yourself amongst the everlastings to maximise the enjoyment. When a breeze blows lazily from the valley below, this must surely rate as one of the finest vantage points on the Bogong High Plains. Continue downhill.

Westons Hut, distinct with its steeply sloping roof, provides a brief rest. The walking track then descends the slope westward in a series of switchbacks. You will soon reach a fork junction. Take the right branch, which is the main track. Down further the track swings sharply away from a gully only to cross it later (collect water here).

Lower down, the walking track widens into a vehicle track. At a vehicle-track junction, go right. Cross a major bridge and soon, squinting down through the open forest, you should be able to see Blairs Hut. Continue down the vehicle track to the hut. The West Kiewa River flows only several metres away.

Ford the river (good swimming on a hot day) and continue northward along the vehicle track uphill to an obvious, narrow saddle several hundred metres from the river. Leave the vehicle track here in favour of an off-track route, south-west up Machinery Spur. Beyond the initial light scrub, open snow-gum forest abounds. The upper reaches of this spur are particularly attractive as an obvious line is followed along the ribbed crest of the spur, entirely devoid of scrub. Work your way up the spur through a number of fine, grassy flats to join a vehicle track in a saddle (Red Robin Gap). Follow the vehicle track upward (south) to emerge above the snow gums once more.

If time permits, visit the summit of Mt Loch; otherwise bypass it on your way to the vehicle track (adjacent to the signposted track junction marked 'Derricks Hut' and 'Dibbins Hut') from day one. Retrace your steps from here to the car park. 📍

Stephen Curtain loves to 'drop the knee' on Telemark skis in the Australian Alps. Back at camp and ensconced in his sack of down, he enjoys the quintessential back-country experience: overeating, being dehydrated and, inexplicably, the occasional naked romp.

Bogong High Plains



Plains to meet a pole-line junction, south-west of Mt Jim.

Leave your pack at the junction for another northwesterly side-trip: Youngs Hut, some 20 minutes away. Head roughly south along another pole line (before re-entering snow-gum forest) and continue down a broad spur. Keep to the poles at all times. Keep an eye out for another pole line that veers left (south-east), accompanied by a walking track. Follow this downhill through the remains of old stockyard fences to the delightful Youngs Hut. Retrace your steps to your pack, where five or ten minutes further on (north-eastward), camp can be made anywhere near the upper reaches of High Plains Creek. Water is available.

distance, above this stony cascade, Mt McKay's summit tower and Mt Bogong, the State's highest peak, are discernible on the horizon. While we stood upon Mt Jim's summit we were fortunate to see a bird of prey—perhaps a kestrel—as it hovered for half a minute or so upon thermal winds. Suddenly it dive-bombed an unsuspecting victim below, no doubt its next meal.

In contrast, on the southern slopes, a thin, spindly veil of mountain plum pine (*Podocarpus lawrencei*) drapes majestically over a boulderfield. *Podocarpus* is the only native conifer that lives above the tree line and also plays an important role as a part of the habitat and as the home of Australia's only alpine-dependent mammal, the mountain

What you see is what you get

One of the smallest and most compact adult sized
sleeping bags on the market.

**NEW
CATALOGUE!**



PALM I
Approx weight:
+/- 550 Grams

PALM II
Approx weight:
+/- 600 Grams

The **"PALM"**
Get it anyway you can

For your closest retailer contact
ROMAN SLEEPING BAGS
14-18 Holland St, St Peters
Tel (02) 9516 5150 Fax (02) 9516 4757
info@roman.com.au

*Note: Model pictured is fully compressed



Down sleeping-bags

In search of a good night's sleep in the bush, with *Stephen Curtain*

CHINESE PROVERB: BUYING SLEEPING- bag is sometimes more difficult than getting out of one for 2 am wee-wee when camping in cold, bamboo forest.

On a chilly night, after 'completing one's business' behind a sapling, re-assuming the foetal position in a warm, down-filled cocoon must rate as bliss for most bushwalkers (even in wild-east China). This is not the case when sleeping in your \$500 bag entails a nightly wrestling match. It's *too* hot. *Too* cold. *Too* small. *Too* tight! Sound familiar? Tales of sleeping in what seems more like an overpriced body-bag are surprisingly commonplace amongst my friends. With time to shop around, it's worth the effort to determine which model is to be your (potentially) life-long bedding companion. The 'right' sleeping-bag is one that matches your requirements of comfort, quality and appropriate warmth with your intended use/activity.

Best suited for

While only a guide, this section indicates the manufacturer's main intended use for each bag. *Two-season* bags are best for travel and summer use. *Three-season* bags are suitable for cooler weather and some cold nights. *Four-season* bags are warranted for use on very cold nights and near the snow-line. *Four-plus season* bags are for snow-camping and alpine use.

Shape

Two shapes of bags are surveyed.

Tapered rectangular bags are popular with sleepers who seek a generous and roomy fit (read: nocturnal ballet) and the versatility that this type of bag offers when it is unzipped and used like a doona in warmer camping weather or hostelling. *Mummy* bags are designed specifically for cooler/cold-weather use. This design often has a broader seasonal rating because it is so thermally efficient that equal or greater warmth is generated with significantly



Inn your dreams! Do they make sleeping-bags in his size? Greg Tossel

Down sleeping-bags

| | | Best suited for | Shape | Weight, grams (fill weight / total weight) | Lith rating, cubic inches per ounce | Outer fabric | Zip slide, side, foot | Size available | Construction | Surveyor's choice | Comments | Approx. price, \$ |
|--|----------------|-----------------|-------|--|-------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| Aurora Australia | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Wanderer † | 2 season | t | 350 (900) | 700 | Ripstop nylon | T, T | S, XL, XW | na | na | | 185 |
| | Bladerunner †† | 3 season | t | 500 (1200) | 700 | As above | T, T | S, XL, XW | na | na | | 265 |
| | Hotham † | 3 season | t | 650 (1400) | 700 | As above | S, S | S, XL, XW | ●● 1/2 | ●●● 1/2 | | 280 |
| Fairydawn New Zealand | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Superlite ST † | 3-4 season | m | 450 (1100) | 700 | DryLoft | T, nap | S, XL | na | na | | 530 |
| | Cobra †† | 4 season | t | 700 (1600) | 700 | DryLoft | S, S | S, XL, W | na | na | | 580 |
| | Scorpion †† | 4+ season | m | 700 (1500) | 700 | DryLoft | T, nap | S, XL, W | na | na | | 580 |
| Kathmandu China | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Columbus | 3 season | t | 550 (1400) | 550 | Taffeta | T, T | S, XL | ●●● | ●● 1/2 | Dryheat version available. Has a security pocket | 460 |
| | Navigator | 4 season | t | 700 (1600) | 650 | Dryheat | T, T | S, XL | ●●● | ●●● | Taffeta version available. Has a security pocket | 660 |
| | Moonraker | 4 season | m | 760 (1650) | 650 | Dryheat | T, nap | S, XL | ●●● | ●● | As above | 700 |
| Macpac New Zealand | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Pinnacle | 2-3 season | m | 250 (700) | 650 | Epic | 1/2 length S, nap | S, XL | ●●●● | ●●● | Half bag | 450 |
| | Tempest | 3 season | t | 700 (1350) | 580 | Epic | T, S | S, XL | ●●●● | ●● 1/2 | | 550 |
| | Solstice | 4 season | m | 700 (1450) | 650 | Epic | T, nap | S, XL, W | ●●●● | ●●● | Down toe-muff traps warm air around feet. Reflective-tape tabs | 700 |
| Mont Fiji* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Brindabella | 3-4 season | t | 700 (1340) | 650 | Taffeta | T, T | S, XL | ●●●● | ●●●● | | 460 |
| | Aurora | 3-4 season | t | 700 (1300) | 650 | Taffeta | T, T | W | ●●●● | ●●●● | | 460 |
| | Spindrift | 4 season | m | 750 (1620) | 650 | Hydranaut XT | T, nap | S, XL | ●●●● | ●●● 1/2 | | 680 |
| Mountain Designs Australia | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Travelite 350 | 2-3 season | t | 350 (950) | 550 | Siltex | T, S | S | ●●●● | ●●● 1/2 | | 270 |
| | Standhardt | 3-4 season | m | 800 (1400) | 550 | DryLoft | T, S | S, XL, W | ●●●● | ●●● | Siltex version available. Optional neck muff available at extra cost | 550 |
| | Cornice | 4 season | m | 700 (1600) | 650 | DryLoft | T, S | S, W | ●●●● | ●●●● | | 630 |
| Mountain Hardwear China | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Galaxy † | 4 season | m | 694 (1390) | 600 | Taffeta | T, nap | S, XW | ●●●● | ●●● | Has an expandable (zipable) draught tube that varies roominess and warmth. Also comes with a mesh storage bag | 500 |
| | Universe | 4+ season | m | 838 (1630) | 600 | Taffeta | T, nap | S, XW | ●●●● | ●●● | As above | 550 |
| | Galaxy SL | 4 season | m | 694 (1380) | 600 | Conduit SL | T, nap | S, XW | ●●●● | ●●●● | As above | 600 |
| One Planet Australia | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Olga † | 3 season | t | 550 (1250) | 550 | Taffeta | T, T | S, XL | ●●●● | ●●● | Has a security pocket | 300 |
| | Bushlite | 4 season | t | 700 (1450) | 650 | DryLoft | T, T | S | ●●●● | ●●●● | As above | 650 |
| | Winterlite | 4+ season | m | 930 (1800) | 650 | DryLoft | T, nap | S | ●●●● | ●●● | As above | 750 |

Down sleeping-bags continued

| | | Best suited for | Shape | Weight: grams: fill weight (total weight) | Life rating: cubic inches per ounce | Outer fabric | Zip slide side foot | Sizes available | Construction | Surveyor's choice | Comments | Approx price, \$ |
|--|------------------|-----------------|-------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|--|------------------|
| Paddy Pallin Australia | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Cloudmaker | 3-4 season | t | 750 (1420) | 570 | DryLoft | T, S | S | ●●●● | ●●● | Pertex version available | 500 |
| | Bimber | 3-4 season | m | 500 (1200) | 660 | DryLoft | T, nap | S | ●●●● | ●●● | | 580 |
| | Freeling | 4+ season | m | 700 (1370) | 660 | DryLoft | T, nap | S, XL | ●●●● | ●●●● | | 650 |
| Puradown Australia | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Mt Moreton † | 2 season | t | 500 (1100) | 600 | Downproof nylon | S, S | S, XL, XXL, W | na | na | | 260 |
| | Mawson 750 † | 3 season | t | 750 (1350) | 600 | Pertex | S, T | S | na | na | | 360 |
| | Extreme 900 † | 3-4 season | t | 900 (1500) | 700 | Pertex Endurance | S, T | S | na | na | | 390 |
| Rick White Signature Series Australia | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Kashgar 380 | 2-3 season | t | 380 (980) | 650 | Pertex | T, S | S | ●●●● | ●●●● | Has a security pocket. Other customised sizes available | 340 |
| | Phoenix 650 | 4+ season | t | 700 (1340) | 805 | Epic | T, S | S | ●●●● | ●●●● | Removable neck muff (50 gram fill) varies warmth. Other customised sizes available | 830 |
| | South Col 950 † | 4+ season | m | 950 (1700) | 805 | Epic | T, nap | S | ●●●● | ●●● | Other customised sizes available | 1115 |
| Roman/Chinook Australia/China | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Europa Zero † | 2-3 season | t | 500 (1100) | 550 | Ripstop nylon | S, S | S | na | na | | 195 |
| | Everest Cap 1 † | 3 season | t | 550 (1300) | 650 | Pertex DWR | S, S | S, XL, XW, XXL | na | na | | 250 |
| | Endurance 700 | 3-4 season | t | 700 (1600) | 650 | Pertex Endurance | S, S | S, XL, XW, XXL | ●●● | ●●● | | 350 |
| Salewa China | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Peru 700 | 3-4 season | m | 700 (1500) | 500 | Ripstop Pertex | T, nap | S, XL | ●●● | ●●● | | 350 |
| | Diadem 500 † | 3 season | m | 500 (1200) | 600 | As above | T, nap | S, XL | na | na | | 370 |
| | Diadem 800 † | 4 season | m | 800 (1650) | 600 | As above | T, nap | S, XL | na | na | | 440 |
| Sherpa Australia | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Traveler 1 | 2 season | t | 400 (1100) | 750 | Ripstop nylon | S, S | S, XL | ●●1/2 | ●●● | | 200 |
| | Traveler 2 | 2-3 season | t | 500 (1200) | 750 | As above | S, S | S, XL | ●●1/2 | ●●● | | 240 |
| | Alpine Dry 800 † | 4 season | t | 800 (1600) | 750 | Emphatex/Ripstop nylon | S, S | S, XL | na | na | | 400 |
| Snowgum China | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Vesper 550 | 2 season | t | 550 (1200) | 600 | Taffeta | T, T | S | ●●● | ●●1/2 | | 270 |
| | Vesper 700 | 3 season | t | 700 (1350) | 600 | Taffeta | T, T | S, XL | ●●● | ●●●1/2 | | 300 |
| | Vesper 850 † | 3-4 season | t | 850 (1500) | 600 | Taffeta | T, T | S, XL | ●●● | ●●● | | 350 |
| Summit Australia | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Savanna 750 | 3 season | t | 750 (1300) | 600 | Ripstop Pertex | T, S | S, XL | ●●●● | ●●●● | | 350 |
| | Tundra 700 | 3 season | t | 700 (1300) | 600 | Emphatex/Ripstop Pertex | T, S | S, XL | ●●●● | ●●● | | 440 |
| | Tundra 900 | 4 season | t | 900 (1500) | 600 | As above | T, S | S, XL | ●●●● | ●●● | | 480 |

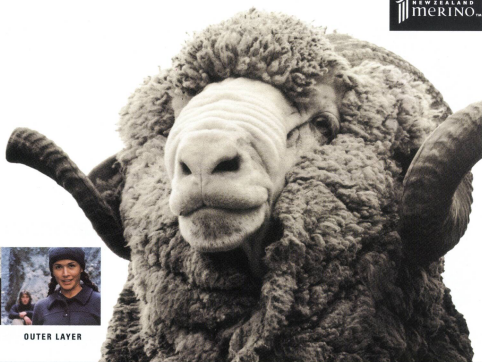
● poor ●● average ●●● good ●●●● excellent Shape: t tapered rectangular, m mummy Type of zip slide: S single, T twin Sizes available: S standard, XL extra long/large, XW extra wide, XLW extra wide and long, W women's version, na not applicable na not assessed † not seen by surveyor † not seen by referee * The box foot on Mont mummy bags is made in Australia
 The country listed after the manufacturer/brand name is the country in which the products are made

ONE PLANET



21 years of Sleeping Bag Heritage.
Made in Australia to Travel, Tramp
and Climb around the World.

Adventure One Pty Ltd, PO Box 438 Flemington 3031 Ph: (03) 9372 2555 Fax: (03) 9372 2473 WWW.1planet.com.au



UNDER LAYER

MID LAYER

OUTER LAYER

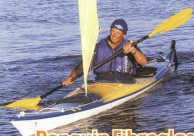
NEW RANGE IN STORE NOW

Available from leading Outdoor stores. PH 1800 554 224 FOR STOCKISTS



icebreaker
PURE MERINO

Paddle Your World
 With a custom
GREENLANDER ITI SEA KAYAK
 or try our flat water L-Rich K1 & K12



Penguin Fibreglass
 808 South Road, Penguin Tasmania
 Australia 7316
 Phone: (03) 6437 2791 • Fax: (03) 6437 2792
 Email: penfib@tassie.net.au
 www.penguinfibreglass.com.au

Himalayan Treks

Conducted tours and independent travel
 Great prices • Reliable Sherpa crew

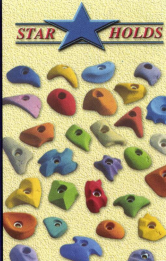
5 November Everest Region Trek

- Teahouse accommodation and meals
- Fully guided, portered trek
- Flying Thai Airlines with a 31/2 star stop-over in Kathmandu

16 days ONLY \$3245

Call Macleay Valley Travel
1800 810 809
 email alan@midcoast.com.au

www.starholds.co.nz



STAR HOLDS

Peter Taw
 Ph Sydney (02) 92947766
 peter.taw@paradise.net.nz

less down, thereby reducing weight and packing space.

Weight

The 'fill weight' and 'total weight' figures were supplied by the manufacturer. The majority of bags surveyed weigh *more* (up to another 25 per cent!) than is quoted in the table.

Buy right

- If you are a cold sleeper, buy a bag with a higher season rating (it's better to be too warm than too cold). You can vary the warmth of a bag in other ways. Use an inner sheet. Wear a beanie to control the loss of body heat through your head and/or wear more clothing. It is also possible to add a 'bag liner'—these are lightweight, down-filled or fleece liners that can dramatically boost the warmth rating of your bag. A bivvy-bag may be another option. The use of a good-quality insulation mat is a must.
- Try on a sleeping-bag in the shop. Be sure that the inner is soft to touch. Is there enough room, especially around the hips and shoulders? What is the overall feel and is it comfortable? Is it long/short enough? If in doubt, consider a longer/ wider/women's-fit or a custom-made bag.
- Check the packed size of a bag in its stuff sack. If it is quite large, consider the use of a compression stuff sack (if one is not supplied).

Loft rating

The loft rating was supplied by the manufacturer/distributor. 'Loft' indicates how many cubic inches one ounce of down will expand to fill and describes the puffiness of a bag which is an indication of a bag's ability to trap warm air.

Outer fabric

Epic, Dryloft, Emphatex, Hydronaute and Pertex Endurance are all water-resistant and breathable outer fabrics that guard against external moisture (in a humid tent or snow-cave) more effectively than standard (nylon-based) fabrics. The water-resistant and breathable fabrics make a bag warmer, too, although it is still necessary to air and dry your bag after using it. Taffeta, Pertex, Siltex and Ripstop (types of nylon) are all highly breathable alternatives.

Zip slide

A single- or twin zip is at the side of each bag and at the foot of tapered rectangular bags. It is possible to zip some bags to a partner-bag as long as the zips are compatible.

Sizes available

Make sure that you 'test-drive' different models in the shops. Only then will you get

a sense of the feel of each bag. The comfort and fit of the 'standard-size' bags varied for my size (solid build and height 180 centimetres). It should also be noted that there are several excellent women's-fit bags available. These usually shorter bags can make better use of down placement and are more thermally efficient. They are suitable for women *and*, possibly, for shorter men. Other sizes, such as extra long, are as indicated.

Down

A sleeping-bag is a cocoon of down that traps body heat to insulate the sleeper from cold and moisture. You will encounter two different types of down in your travels: duck and goose, said to be sourced either from Europe or Asia (China). The *amount* of down used gives a reasonable indication of a bag's warmth. This is expressed as a total fill quantity. The grading of down (not mentioned in the table but accounted for in a bag's assessment) is represented as a ratio of 'fluffy down' to 'stalky feathers' and was also considered by the surveyor.

Construction

The design and quality of the bag, and the construction of a number of features determined this rating: features such as a neck muff; the position of draught tube/s; the type, cut and placement of baffles; and the quality of stitching. A well-fitting and insulated, contoured hood was also a factor.

Surveyor's choice

The emphasis in this section is on the sum of desirable traits in a bag. For example: is it lightweight? Does it pack to an acceptably small size? Is it *reasonably* priced? (Let's hope it doesn't require you to donate an organ in order to pay for it.) There are exceptions, but the old adage applies: you get what you pay for. I have particularly kept in mind the beginner to intermediate bushwalker and those who require bags for snow use. For cooler and cold weather/snow use, I have a bias towards bags that are made, in part or wholly, from a water-resistant, breathable outer fabric.

Seek the assistance of shop staff when making your choice. The bags surveyed are only a selection of what's available on the market but most are of a very high quality; 'duds' are rare. Just remember: the *perfect* sleeping-bag for all uses has not yet been invented!

Approximate price

For standard-size model, as at March–April 2001. ●

Stephen Curtain loves to 'drop the knee' on Telemark skis in the Australian Alps. Back at camp and ensconced in his sack of down, he enjoys the quintessential back-country experience: overeating, being dehydrated and, inexplicably, the occasional naked romp.

This survey was refereed by *Graig Carey*.

Special Offer to Wild Readers



New Sherpa SPORTZTHERM Thermal Underwear

only
\$29.95
per set
(Top & Long John)

Sizes XS - XXL
Crew Neck Long Sleeve Top
Long Johns

SPORTZTHERM
technical thermal wear is:

- Ultra Breathable
- Insulating
- Light & Comfortable

Sold in matching size sets only.
No rainchecks. Conditions apply.
Price includes GST and is valid until 31/7/01
Mail Order available (add \$3.80 per set P&H)



96 Canterbury Road, Blackburn South VIC 3130
Phone (03) 9894 4755 Fax (03) 9894 3178

Level 3, Wentworth Building,
University of Sydney, NSW 2006
Phone (02) 9566 2544 Fax (02) 9566 1229

110 Smith Street, Collingwood VIC 3066
Phone (03) 9416 4066 Fax (03) 9416 4976

**RECYCLED
RECREATION**

www.recycled-recreation.com.au

Lightweight Meals

Food to go, by Michael Hampton



When the tide goes out the tucker goes in; Blackstone Bay, Alaska. Iain Groves

MOST WALKERS WOULD AGREE THAT THE preparation and consumption of food are high on the prime-activities during a bush-walk scale. Poor or insufficient food can (will) wreak havoc on morale, and good nutrition increases in importance the longer you stay out. Not everyone is a bush chef. Menu planning and meal preparation can be a chore, especially at the end of a hard day. In the range of lightweight meals in this survey there should be something to keep everyone happy, from carnivore to vegetarian.

The meals are all of the savoury 'grab-and-go' variety and will be most attractive to those who are too busy to spend time preparing a menu and meals beforehand and, of course, to those undertaking multi-day forays when weight (including fuel) is of great importance. All meals are available from outdoors shops throughout Australia but you'll be lucky to find more than two brands at any one shop (or chain of shops).

I invited a number of friends (two male, four female) to a 'freeze-dried dinner party' where the meals were prepared strictly

according to instructions. This survey is not a lab test; the weights and food value statistics are supplied by the manufacturers, the bullets by our testers. Brands differ in their 'serving size'. For some the measurement refers to the mass of the contents when they are dry; others refer to the mass of the reconstituted product. I found that generally a 'serve' translates to one to one-and-a-half metric cups of rehydrated food.

Method of drying

Foodstuffs are made 'light' by removing the moisture. This is done either by dehydration or freeze-drying. Quite a few meals use a combination of both methods. The freeze-drying process entails ice precipitation being drawn from frozen food in a vacuum and there is only a marginal alteration in food value. The dried food thus becomes extremely porous and will rehydrate in one or two minutes. Dehydration, on the other hand, anyone can do at home. The food is put on a tray and blasted with hot air. This process is less subtle than freeze-drying and

breaks down the cell structure of the food. The reconstitution or 'cooking' of the meals surveyed ranges from the simple addition of boiling water in the case of meals that have been freeze-dried (some reheating may be required) to boiling and simmering—sometimes it may take up to 15 minutes—for dehydrated meals although a good pre-soaking will radically reduce the boiling time required.

Weight

The weights given are those that appear on the packet, with the meal in its freeze-dried or dehydrated state.

Energy per serve

Like soldiers, walkers march on their stomachs. Energy is measured in kilojoules. The recommended daily intake for the average adult male is 11 600 kilojoules. If you average the energy needs of male and female walkers, from zero exertion to maximum exertion in cold conditions, you get an average daily

Quick, delicious & nutritious.

**HARVEST
FOODWORKS**
Innovative Foods For A Changing World

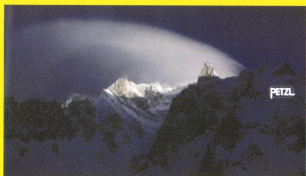
Stroganoff/Wine Sauce
Chili Mexicana
Couscous Almondine
Mediterranean Pasta Delight
Garden Vegetable Stew
Oriental Sweet and Sour
Cajun Beans and Rice
Maritime Pasta Supreme
Spaghettini Italiano
Tandoori Curry
Instant Del Delight
Powdered Vegetable Shortening
Blueberry Cobbler
No-bake Choc Chew Cookies

highlighted with red wine and sour cream sauce.
a spicy bean-and-tomato-sauce delight.
with a savoury mushroom sauce.
Greek pasta with mixed vegetables and a zesty sauce.
vegetables with their own special sauce and spices.
tangy, sweet and spicy!
with tangy tomato sauce.
a saucy hint of the sea on pasta and spring vegetables.
chunky Italian tomato sauce on pasta.
exotic blend of rice and vegies in a tangy yoghurt sauce.
Del Makhri curry with instant rice.
a unique replacement for liquid oil in cooking.
a delicious delight with real blueberries.
quick, easy and great tasting.



Exclusively distributed in Australia by Spelman Pty Ltd. Ph. (02) 9966 9800 Fax (02) 9966 9811 e-mail harvest@spelma.com.au www.spelman.com.au

Have you picked up your FREE PETZL catalogue yet?



You can collect your Petzl 2001 catalogue from
all good outdoors stores now,
or ring 02 9966 9800 and we'll send you one.
email: petcat2001@spelma.com.au

PETZL®

Exclusively distributed in Australia by Spelman Pty Ltd. Ph. (02) 9966 9800 Fax (02) 9966 9811 e-mail petzl@spelma.com.au www.spelman.com.au

Lightweight meals

| | | Method of drying | Weight, grams | Energy per serve, kilojoules | Carbohydrates per serve, grams | Protein per serve, grams | Number of serves per packet; "number of servings" recommendation (surveyor's recommendation) | Packaging | Preparation | Tastiness | Value | Comments | Approx price, \$ |
|--|--|------------------|---------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--|-----------|-------------|-----------|---------|--|------------------|
| Adventure Foods Australia | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Lamb casserole | F | 110 | 2274 | 40.6 | 38.3 | 1 (less than 1) | ● 1/2 | ● 1/2 | ●● | ●● | All Adventure Foods products contain foil packaged items that fold but do not reseal. All need less liquid and more soaking than stated | 9.00 |
| | Beef & black bean | F | 75 | 1530 | 14.5 | 35.5 | As above | ● 1/2 | ● 1/2 | ●● | ●● | | 9.50 |
| | Tuna mornay | F | 110 | 2135 | 38.8 | 38.4 | 1 (1) | ● 1/2 | ● 1/2 | ●●● | ●● | | 11.00 |
| AlpineAire USA | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Albacore tuna with noodles & cheese | Both | 156 | na | 40 | 17 | 2 (1) | ●● 1/2 | ●●● | ● 1/2 | ● | All AlpineAire products come in zip-lock packets that don't stand | 16.50 |
| | Santa Fe black beans & rice (v) | Both | 184 | na | 69 | 11 | 2 (2) | ●● 1/2 | ●●● | ●●● | ●● | | 16.50 |
| | Spaghetti marinara with mushrooms (v) | Both | 156 | na | 52 | 13 | 2 (1.5) | ●● 1/2 | ●●● | ●● | ● 1/2 | Unusual to find a vegetarian spaghetti 'marinara' | 16.50 |
| Backcountry Cuisine New Zealand | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Beef and pasta hotpot | Both | 90 | 1657 | 46.7 | 26.9 | 1 (less than 1) | ●●● | ●●● | ●●● | ●●● | Backcountry Cuisine packets are not resealable. They are also available in two- (511.50) and five- (526.00) serve packs | 7.50 |
| | Honey soy chicken | Both | 90 | 1648 | 55.6 | 17.5 | As above | ●●● | ●●● | ●● | ●● | | 7.50 |
| | Roast lamb and vegetables | Both | 90 | 1680 | 48.7 | 20.3 | As above | ●●● | ●●● | ●●● | ●●● | | 7.50 |
| Backpackers Pantry USA | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Spaghetti with sauce † | F | 195 | na | 53 | 12 | 2 (less than 2) | ● | ● | ●● 1/2 | ●●● | All meals have free-standing zip-lock pouch except Spaghetti with sauce | 10.00 |
| | Wild West chili beans † | F | 181 | na | 49 | 14 | 2 (1.5) | ●●● | ●●● | ●● 1/2 | ●● | | 12.00 |
| | Thai spicy peanut sauce with rice & vegetables † | F | 227 | na | 48 | 15 | 2 (1.5) | ●●● | ●●● | ●●● 1/2 | ●● 1/2 | | 13.50 |
| | Kathmandu curry with lentils & potatoes † | F | 188 | na | 38 | 10 | 2 (2) | ●●● | ●●● | ●●●● | ●●● 1/2 | Kathmandu curry is filling and tastes good | 14.50 |
| | Lasagna † | F | 198 | na | 41 | 17 | 2 (1.5) | ●●● | ●●● | ●● | ● 1/2 | | 15.50 |
| Harvest Foodworks Canada | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Chili Mexicana (v) | D | 210 | 1548 | 68 | 22 | 2 (2) | ●●● | ●● | ●● | ●● | All meals come in good plastic bags with up to three paper sachets. All meals need a good presoak | 17.00 |
| | Maritime pasta supreme | D | 217 | 1713 | 68 | 19 | 2 (less than 2) | ●●● | ●● | ●●● | ● 1/2 | | 17.00 |
| | Stroganoff | D | 267 | 1882 | 72 | 25 | As above | ●●● | ●● | ● 1/2 | ● 1/2 | Disappointed to find a Stroganoff without many mushrooms | 17.00 |
| | Tandoori curry | D | 194 | 1125 | 53 | 25 | 2 (2) | ●●● | ●● | ●● | ●● | | 17.00 |
| Soft Path Cuisine Canada | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Barbie's dhal (v) | D | 350 | 2494 | 114 | 25 | 2-3 (more than 2) | ●●● 1/2 | ●● | ●●● | ●●●● | All Soft Path meals are organic and require presoaking. Measurements are marked on outer bag. Some require two pots and the chutney is fiddly. Huge tasty serves | 20.50 |
| | Bueno bean soup (v) | D | 278 | 2100 | 94 | 27 | As above | ●●● 1/2 | ●● | ●●● | ●●●● | | 20.50 |
| | Prairie miso stew (v) | D | 315 | 2515 | 122 | 27 | As above | ●●● 1/2 | ●● | ●● 1/2 | ●●●● | | 20.50 |
| | Curry 'inna hurri' (v) | D | 435 | 3166 | 141 | 31 | As above | ●●● 1/2 | ●● | ●●● | ●●●● | | 20.50 |
| Tinderry Mountain Foods Australia | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Beef & mushroom risotto † | D | 150 | na | na | na | 1-2 (1) | ● | ●● | ● 1/2 | ●● | All meals benefit from a good presoak. Packaging could be sturdier. No ingredients are listed | 8.00 |
| | Chicken curry & rice † | D | 150 | na | na | na | 1-2 (1) | ● | ●● | ● 1/2 | ● 1/2 | | 8.00 |
| | Chicken mornay † | D | 150 | na | na | na | 1-2 (1) | ● | ●● | ● | ● 1/2 | | 8.00 |
| | Ratatouille & pasta † | D | 110 | na | na | na | 1-2 (1) | ● | ●● | ●● 1/2 | ●● | A loose use of the description 'ratatouille' | 8.00 |
| | Spaghetti Bolognaise † | D | 110 | na | na | na | 1-2 (1) | ● | ●● | ● | ● 1/2 | As above for 'Bolognaise' | 8.00 |

● poor ●● average ●●● good ●●●● excellent
na not available (v) vegetarian F freeze-dried D dehydrated † not seen by referee
The country listed after the manufacturer/brand name is the country in which the products are made

— patagonia® —

CAPILENE®

UNDERWEAR

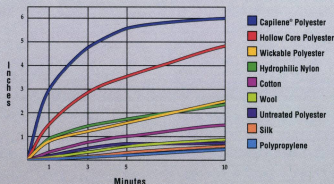
World's Best Sports Underwear

When people exercise, they sweat. Correct management of heat loss and perspiration help prevent hypothermia in cold conditions; moisture management is just as important in hot and humid conditions when heatstroke may occur if evaporative heat loss is inhibited.

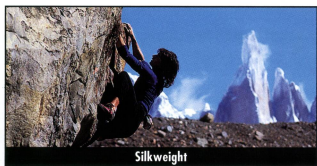
The solution is to layer with clothing designed specifically to move moisture away from the skin. Capilene Underwear is exceptionally effective at keeping the skin dry, and the body comfortable by wicking perspiration to the outside of the fabric where it evaporates into the air or is transferred to the next layer of clothing.

The Capilene treatment is bonded to the surface of each fibre and will not wash out. We've added an anti-microbial finish to all weights of Capilene Underwear (except Stretch) to inhibit the growth of odour-causing bacteria. Capilene Underwear is easy to clean, can be tossed into the washer and dryer, and requires no special care. It stays soft and supple, and it won't shrink.

WICKING COMPARISONS

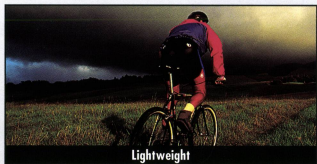


Capilene Polyester wicks moisture off the skin faster than any other popular underwear fabric. It starts out wicking faster and maintains its speed. Faster wicking decreases drying time thus ensuring your comfort.



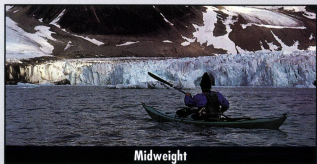
Silkweight

COOLING IN THE SUMMER,
SMOOTH LAYER IN THE WINTER



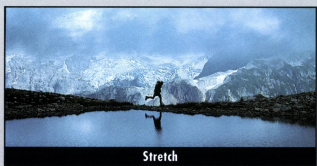
Lightweight

AEROBIC LAYER



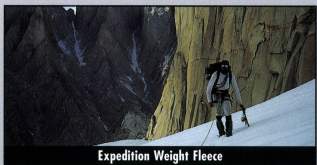
Midweight

VERSATILE WEIGHT FOR ALL USES



Stretch

UNRESTRICTED MOVEMENT



Expedition Weight Fleece

STOP AND GO IN THE COLD

patagonia®

497 Kent Street • SYDNEY • (02) 9264 2500
370 Little Bourke St. • MELBOURNE • (03) 9642 2266

Mail Order • 1 800-066 625

Capilene Underwear is available at Australia's finest outdoors shops.

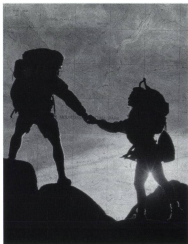
Photos: Top to Bottom: Sarah Wild, John Kelly, Greg Van Dierendonck, Cliff Light, Jordan Smith • ©Patagonia, Inc. 1997

BUSHWALKING MAPS



Land and
Property
Information

Don't wander off aimlessly. Get a map from Land and Property Information and you won't lose your cool in the bush.



Topographic Maps are great for any activity: walking, XC skiing, canoeing, camping, climbing or simply driving. No matter what you want to do or where you want to go, we've got you covered.

Topographic maps are ready for use with GPS.

Our maps can be obtained from many newsagents and bookshops, camping outlets, National Parks & Wildlife Service, or direct from Land and Property Information.

For further information, and your free 'Catalogue of NSW Maps', write to Land and Property Information, PO Box 143, Bathurst, NSW 2795, or phone (02) 6332 8124, fax (02) 6332 8299. Send \$2.00 for a copy of the CMA Map Reading Guide.

Name.....

Address.....

energy input requirement of around 10 000 to 16 000 kilojoules. Men may need up to 23 000 kilojoules in extreme conditions. The food value figures in the table are supplied by the manufacturer. Some US brands do not provide energy data although they do indicate the fat content of their products. This may be due to government regulations but most bushwalkers would agree that eight days out in South-west Tasmania is not a time to worry about fat content! *Note: Tinderry Mountain Foods is yet to have its meals analysed.*

Carbohydrate per serve

Carbohydrates are broken down into sugars and starches, which provide our primary source of energy both in the short term and throughout the day. The carbohydrate content of the products is measured in grams.

Protein per serve

Proteins are used to rebuild tissue and repair the body. Unfortunately, many foods that are high in protein either don't store well or require a lot of cooking. Freeze-drying is an excellent, albeit expensive, way around this. The protein content of the products is also measured in grams in the survey.

Number of serves per package

Now here's a contentious area. One person's banquet is another one's snack, so some manufacturers label packets 'one BIG or two normal serves'. Working out what they call a 'serve' was interesting, but generally one serve should translate as a metric cup full of food after it has been reconstituted (see introduction). You should try the meals to measure the serves before you embark on extended adventures. In the table the manufacturers' figures are first and the testers' are in brackets.

Packaging

Rubbish is always an issue, particularly when you have to carry it. We preferred the sturdy, heavy-duty plastic or foil packets with zip-lock closure and a base that enables the packet to stand during 'cooking'. A broad base also allows for easy presoaking in the packet. These packets could be resealed and any leftovers consumed later, or they could be washed and reused on the same trip. The packaging also determines which methods of preparation may be used.

Preparation

If weight is a major consideration, the method of preparation becomes an important part of the equation. We considered: 1) Were the instructions clear and easy to follow? 2) How many steps were there? 3) Could the meal be prepared in and consumed from the packet, and how many utensils/pots were needed? and 4) How much fuel was required both to 'cook' the meal and to clean up?

Tastiness

The bullets represent the average of the marks given to each product by a cross-section of testers. The testers were not impressed with meals that didn't measure up to a pretentious name. Meals with dehydrated chicken (it stays chewy), and excessively salty meals were also poorly received.

Buy right

- Take into account the the amounts of fuel and water and the number of vessels required to prepare the meal you have chosen. If you will be carrying very little fuel, it is a good idea to select meals that require less cooking time. You may find freeze-dried meals more suitable.
- Don't choose meals by simply measuring the bullet ratings against the prices. Take note of the number of servings per packet and the weight of the dried product, especially if weight is a concern.
- Try the meals before you take them on a trip. You may have very different ideas from the surveyor about how much food makes a satisfying meal. Avoid carrying more than you need or going hungry by sampling the stuff—both for quality and quantity!

Value

The testers made judgments after preparing and tasting the meals, considering the data, and balancing the information with the recommended retail price. Once again the bullets show the average of the marks given to each product.

Comments

Any other relevant information and observations are noted in this column. The comment may be about the brand overall, or concern a specific meal.

Approx price

This is the recommended retail price shown in half-dollars. The *actual* retail price may vary significantly from the figures in the table.

To finish, I'd like to offer a couple of tips. The first is that when possible you should try to presoak dehydrated meals. Use a long, wooden spoon (a stick would suffice) to ensure that the liquid reaches the bottom corners of those freeze-dried packets. Big eaters should carry some additional, quick-cooking noodles, pasta or mashed potatoes to bulk out their meals. *Bon appétit!*

Michael Hampton (see Contributors in Wild no 17) lives close to Australia's largest Nordic skiing area, Lake Mountain. A ski instructor, he is happiest exploring snow-laden alpine-ash forests looking for photographic subjects, or gliding over the treeless high plains in search of remote, cross-country downhill adventure.

This survey was refereed by *Scott Drummond*.

LEATHERMAN – the Tool you need when you don't have any Tools!

Leatherman tools measure up to the most rigorous quality standards: Tim Leatherman's. Leatherman sets the standards in the multitool world. Obviously, no one else can say that.



WAVE™

NEEDLE-NOSE PLIERS
REGULAR PLIERS
WIRE CUTTERS
HARD-WIRE CUTTERS
SERRATED KNIFE
WOOD SAW
SMALL SCREWDRIVER
EXTRA-SMALL SCREWDRIVER
LARGE SCREWDRIVER
PHILLIPS-HEAD SCREWDRIVER
DIAMOND-COATED FILE
BOTTLE/CAN OPENER
SCISSORS
WIRE STRIPPER
LANYARD ATTACHMENT

ALSO AVAILABLE



PST Pocket Survival Tool
(the original)

PST II
(PST with scissors)



Super Tool
(all locking features)

Mini Tool
(a more compact PST)

MICRA™



SCISSORS
CLIP-POINT KNIFE
TWEEZERS
NAIL FILE/CLEANER
MEDIUM SCREWDRIVER
FLAT PHILLIPS SCREWDRIVER
BOTTLE OPENER, RULER
LANYARD ATTACHMENT

also available in Red, Blue and Green

FLAIR™



NEEDLE-NOSE PLIERS
REGULAR PLIERS
WIRE CUTTERS
HARD-WIRE CUTTERS
CORKSCREW WITH ASSIST
STRAIGHT/SERRATED KNIFE
EXTRA-SMALL SCREWDRIVER
MEDIUM SCREWDRIVER
LARGE SCREWDRIVER
PHILLIPS
SCREWDRIVER
WOOD SAW
20 cm/8 INCH
RULER
CAN OPENER
SCISSORS
COCKTAIL
FORK
SPREADER KNIFE
BOTTLE OPENER

CRUNCH™



LOCKING PLIERS
WIRE CUTTERS
HARD-WIRE CUTTERS
SERRATED KNIFE
WOOD/METAL FILE
MEDIUM SCREWDRIVER
LARGE SCREWDRIVER
PHILLIPS-HEAD
SCREWDRIVER
HEX-BIT DRIVER
BOTTLE OPENER
RULER
(METRIC/INCH)
WIRE STRIPPER
LANYARD
ATTACHMENT

LEATHERMAN®

ONE TOOL. A COUPLE THOUSAND USES®

FOR YOUR NEAREST LEATHERMAN STOCKIST, CONTACT AUSTRALIAN DISTRIBUTOR:
ZEN IMPORTS PTY LTD TELEPHONE: 1800 064 200

Designs on the world

One of Australia's biggest outdoors equipment manufacturers and retailers has announced changes which are expected to have far-reaching effects on Australia's entire outdoors equipment industry. Brisbane-based **Mountain Designs** has a significant new investor by the name of Greg Nunn who sold his electrical manufacturing business last year for a reported \$100 million. Mountain Designs CEO Kim Carrigan reports that this injection of funds will enable the business to become a global brand with 'a cutting-edge range at competitive prices'. This naturally requires that new positions be created in the company. The first to be announced is a fascinating one: Mountain Designs founder **Rick White** is to return after years of 'exile in the wilderness'. White was forced out during a period of financial difficulty in the early 1990s. White's vast experience will be brought to bear as Research & Development Manager in an effort to upgrade the Mountain Designs range. His specialty sleeping-bag manufacturing business, **Rick White Signature Series**, is to be incorporated into Mountain Designs. A decision is yet to be made about the future of the Rick White brand.

Even more from Gore

As announced in *Wild* no 80, **WL Gore** and Associates has released a new fabric, **Gore-Tex XCR**, which is reputedly the highest performance Gore-Tex on the market. Gore tells us that XCR is 25 per cent more breathable than 'classic' Gore-Tex and that it is matched with the toughest textiles to create a three-layer fabric which is highly breathable and very durable.

XCR (eXtended Comfort Range) outerwear garments are available from Macpac stockists, Mountain Designs and Paddy Pallin shops. Prices start from \$500.

Moving house



The Makalu Mountain Jacket is now made in Australia.

The **Makalu** garment brand grabbed our attention just a year ago: It was manufactured in Nepal for the Australian market. Makalu has relocated its manufacturing to Australia due to the various difficulties of off-shore manufacturing. A new range of 100 per cent Australian made garments has been

Looking sheepish

Synthetic fleece products have dominated the outdoors clothing market for years but lately an old favourite has been making a comeback: Many outdoors-clothing manufacturers are returning to wool. It is soft against the skin, less smelly and it wicks vapour (as well as liquid moisture) at a rate superior to some synthetic equivalents.

Icebreaker and **Macpac** have released merino wool thermal- and travel-wear garments. The latest manufacturer to jump on the wool bandwagon is the surfwear company **Ripcurl**, which has entered the mountain-wear market with the **Sportswool Insulayer** range. Sportswool is a newly developed bi-layer fabric with an inner layer of merino wool combined with an outer layer of hydrophilically treated polyester. Ripcurl tells us that the combination allows superior heat transfer and dispersal of moisture vapour away from the skin—apparently wool fibres have an extremely complicated internal structure which increases its capacity to wick moisture. Long-sleeved tops RRP \$99.95.

Still on the theme of wool, **Fairydown** has released the **Merino sport zip neck**, a thermal top with merino wool against the skin and a polyester outer

layer. RRP \$139. Also from Fairydown is the more unusual combination of Gore Windstopper with a wool-mix face fabric—the **Nazomi Boulevard** is a women's-cut jacket. RRP \$249.



Left, Ripcurl tries the mountain-wear market on for size with the Sportswool Insulayer range. Right, Fairydown's Nazomi Boulevard has the unusual combination of Gore Windstopper with a wool face-fabric.


released. **The Mountain Jacket** is designed for back-country skiing and has four pockets, a fleece neck-warmer and Ripstop shoulders for extra strength underneath a pack. It is made from Entrant GII XT, which we are told has an excellent ratio of weight-to-waterproofness and breathability.

Also in the new range are **Isobar Jackets** and **Vests**, which are made from a three-layer waterproof and breathable fleece fabric. The Mountain Jacket is available at RRP \$485, Isobar Jacket at RRP \$350 and Vest at RRP \$180. For more information see www.makalu.com.au

Knick-Knacks

* **Berghaus** has just updated its range of popular **Dart day packs**. The manufacturer says that the new features include a kinetic three-dimensional mesh back panel, improved padding and larger exterior lid pockets. The Dart 30 and Dart 40 also have sternum straps and large expandable front pockets which fit two standard-sized water-bottles. Available from Berghaus stockists. Prices range from \$90 to \$120.

* **Gerber** has released a new version of its ever-popular Multi-tool—the compact sport **Multi-plier 400**. This version of the multi-tool has the same features as the **Multi-plier 600**, but is three-quarters of the size. At 172 grams the tool includes pliers, screwdrivers and scissors. RRP \$90. (See *Wild* no 82 for information on new Leatherman multi-tools.)


* **Johnson & Johnson** claims that the long-held belief that to leave a minor wound uncovered helps it to heal faster is a myth. In fact, Johnson & Johnson claims that the reverse is true. It has come up with a new version of its famous original product, the **Band-Aid Advanced Healing** adhesive bandage. It is broader than a standard Band-Aid, waterproof, designed to stick for several days and resembles a 'second skin'. It occurred to us that this product would be excellent for preventing or treating blisters. 

Products (on loan to *Wild*) and/or information about them, including colour slides, are welcome for possible review in this department. Written items should be typed, include recommended retail prices and preferably not exceed 200 words. Send them to the Editor, *Wild*, PO Box 415, Prahran, Vic 3181.

JOIN THE RENEWABLE ENERGY FAN CLUB

PROVE YOU ARE SERIOUS ABOUT REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.
GET YOUR ELECTRICITY FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES.
FIND OUT IF YOUR ENERGY SUPPLIER HAS AN ACCREDITED GREEN POWER PRODUCT.
GREEN POWER - IT'S GUARANTEED RENEWABLE ENERGY



Solutions for the future  SEDA

WWW.GREENPOWER.COM.AU

Turning up the heat

Greenhouse gases and global warming are two concepts that are familiar to the world-wide community and remain among the most significant environmental problems worldwide.

Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) Executive Director, Don Henry, cites the key figures of a recently released report, *Climate Change 2001: The Scientific Basis*. He notes the report predicts that global temperatures will rise between 1.4 and 5.8 degrees Celsius over the coming century; it is potentially a much higher figure than the 3.5 degrees predicted in 1995.

The report was prepared by a group who are arguably the world's leading climate change experts. For the first time, they were in agreement that the global warming that has occurred during the 20th century has been caused by human activity; in other words, by pollution.

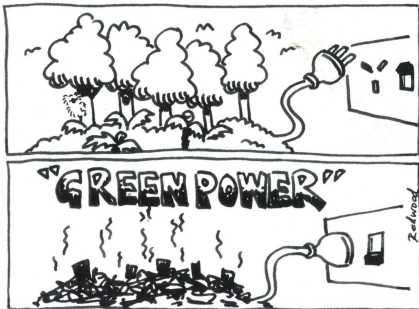
According to Friends of the Earth, Melbourne, the report indicates that Australia will be harder hit by climate change than had previously been anticipated. It predicts that droughts, flooding and fires will become more frequent. Alpine areas are reported to be particularly vulnerable. It is possible that the loss of all skiable areas in Australian alpine regions will occur in as little as 50–80 years. The Melbourne Age has reported that changes to global weather patterns appear to have caused treelines at Mt Hotham and Falls Creek to shift uphill. The colder temperatures that have prevented trees from growing on alpine snow plains in the past have ceased to have this effect. There are saplings growing in places that previously were bare and some trees are up to eight metres tall.

Scientists have predicted that the Great Barrier Reef may be threatened if ocean temperatures rise. If the reef is covered with warmer waters—a likely outcome of global climate change—the coral polyps, which are the building blocks of the reef, spit out the algae that live in their tissues. The polyps then die and the reef is bleached of colour.

It is estimated that we need to reduce greenhouse gasses by up to 70 per cent. To make significant reductions we will need to change both the way we consume energy and how it is produced for human use. Henry notes: 'We have much to gain by acting now to reduce greenhouse pollution—a more stable climate, protected people and nature, and vibrant economic opportunities...'

For more information, see the ACF publication *Natural Advantage: A Blueprint for a Sustainable Australia*. Available from ACF offices for \$27; phone (03) 9416 1166 or 1800 332 510.

In case you were wondering... native forests are *not* a renewable resource



The Howard Government's Renewable Energy Electricity Act (January 2001) defines native-forest woodchips as an acceptable 'renewable source' of fuel to be burnt to produce electricity as an alternative to coal. Their rationale is that woodchips are a 'waste product' of the logging industry. In Victoria 85 per cent of native-forest logging is for woodchips, which would ap-

pear to indicate that woodchips are the central 'product', rather than a byproduct, of logging. The Victorian Government has finally admitted that forests are being cut down faster than they can regrow and the State's forests are presently being extensively overlogged. It is arguable that individual trees and plantations are renewable but ecosystems are not.

Helicopters over Hinchinbrook

Developers Keith Williams and Grant Kenny (yes, that Grant Kenny) are trying to obtain a permit to run helicopter tours over Hinchinbrook Island and Passage.

The Hinchinbrook Island Management Plan states, 'low-level scenic flights over or adjacent to the park are considered incompatible with the peaceful experience sought by other park visitors'. Even flights above 500 metres—which is what the applicants are requesting—are unacceptable.

Feral horses afoot

The Minister for the Environment in New South Wales has imposed a ban on aerial culling of feral horses in all National Parks in New South Wales. This follows claims that an operation to shoot more than 600 horses in Guy Fawkes River National Park last October was inhumane.

However, an independent report by Sydney University Veterinarian Professor Tony English supported the actions of the National Parks & Wildlife Service in carrying out the cull. He confirmed that the cull was carried out humanely according to RSPCA-endorsed procedures and was the most practical method to control the high numbers of horses in the park. Further inquiries have been commissioned by the government.

In Kosciuszko National Park, horse numbers are even higher. The NPWS is hamstringing in removing, stabilising numbers or sometimes even conducting counts of horses in the park. Recently the expanding population has forced herds into the alpine area. Horse lovers have lobbied against removal of the horses because they regard the cultural values of the horse as more important than the internationally significant natural values. The major damage that both feral and recreational horses cause to Kosciuszko National Park and other National Parks severely compromises the purpose of these conservation areas.

Andrew Cox

Settle for the best



Nikon Travelite V binoculars. Lightweight and compact, with aspherical lenses for minimal distortion and edge-to-edge sharpness. Great for those who wear glasses – a click-type dioptre adjuster lets you "set and forget". Models available in 8x, 9x, 10x and 12x magnification.

Get the Nikon Advantage!

Whether you're a bushwalker, trekker or birdwatcher, you'll get the best view through Nikon binoculars. Nikon's own special high grade optical glass, combined with superior design, produces brighter, sharper, more colourful images. We call it the Nikon Advantage. So, settle for the best. Settle for Nikon binoculars.



Nikon Sprint III binoculars. Lightweight, affordable and ultra-compact, with multi-coated lenses. Available in 7x, 8x, 9x & 10x magnification. Minimum viewing distance of 3 metres.



Nikon Waterproof binoculars. Waterproof and dustproof. Rubber armoured for shock resistance and added grip. Models available in 8x and 10x magnifications. Sealed with Nitrogen to prevent fogging.

Nikon

For more product information, visit:
www.maxwell.com.au

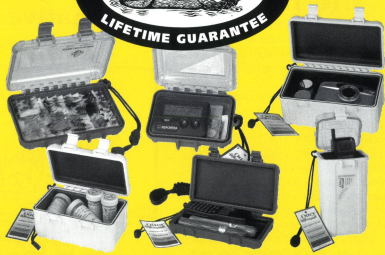
For a Nikon binoculars brochure, call:
Sydney • Phone (02) 9390 0210
Melbourne • Phone (03) 9537 0999
Brisbane • Phone (07) 3245 1544

Request a brochure by e-mail:
brochure@maxwell.com.au

MAXWELL



WATERTIGHT



Guaranteed to 30 metres depth and they float

Watertight, crushproof and durable: The virtually indestructible Otter Box protects anything you value while you are on the water. Mobile phones, electronics, cameras, cash, credit cards, car and boat keys, hand-held computers (PDAs), wallets, documents, GPS units, medical supplies, and much more are safe and secure anywhere you go.

Offer Box Features Include:

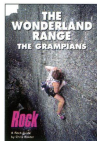
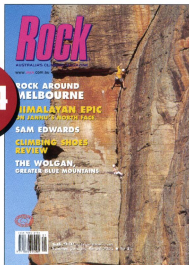
- 7 Sizes and 13 Colours
- Foam Lining in the Six Larger Sizes

For product information, call Grant Minervini Agencies Pty Ltd. Ph 1800 882 058

SUBSCRIBE TO Rock... and get 'the lot'!

- Save big \$\$\$
- Receive a free **RockGUIDE** of your choice valued at \$8.70
- Receive a free **RockGUIDE** to either the Blue Mountains or Victoria (valued at \$20.80) when you subscribe for three years
- Free home delivery
- Protection against price increases

~~\$9.99~~
\$7.74
WITH 3-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION



**PHONE (03) 9826 8483
TO SUBSCRIBE
OR VISIT**

www.rock.com.au

Offer applies to new, renewing and gift subscriptions.

Plan of Management for Morton and Budawang National Parks

The Plan of Management for Morton and Budawang National Parks was recently adopted, bringing into force a number of measures proposed in a draft during public consultation in 1998. The parks, covering 194 000 hectares, stretch from Bundanoon in the north, through the Ettrema and Budawang wilderness areas, to the Kings Highway in the south.

The plan represents a long overdue management regime to preserve the special values of the region. The majority of the parks will be managed as two wilderness areas, with day use and vehicle access confined to the National Park edges.

In the Budawangs, the plan implements camping- and wood-fire bans (though some already existed) at Monolith Valley, Castle Saddle, Hidden Valley and the Vines. Camping is also no longer permitted in caves and under rock overhangs, except in those designated by the NPWS.

The plan allows the provision of basic toilets to be considered at Cooyoyo Creek, Bibbenluke, Burrumbeet Brook and Styles Plain. Education in the tenet of minimum-impact bushwalking will be a high priority. Increased controls, such as a permit system or the imposition of limits on group sizes, will be introduced if other strategies fail to control the environmental impacts of bushwalkers.

AC

Newnes Plateau mine expansion

The New South Wales Government is considering the approval of expansions to Clarence Colliery, an underground coalmine on Newnes Plateau adjacent to the Blue Mountains National Park and in the wilderness-listed headwaters of the Wollangambe River and Bungleboori Creek. Already the mine causes a black sludge to form in the Wollangambe, diverts water-tables and has caused cracks in cliffs. The expanded mine under Gooches Crater and other upland swamps risks eliminating rare water-dependent plants and degrading the quality and quantity of water in creeks.

AC

▲ Act now

A decision is expected shortly. Write letters opposing the expansion to the New South Wales Minister for Mining, Eddie Obeid, and the Minister for the Environment, Bob Debus, at Parliament House, Macquarie St, Sydney, NSW 2000.

Jets over the Blue Mountains

Australian Fighter Flight Centre set up a business in October 2000 flying clients in jet fighters on 'strike missions' through the

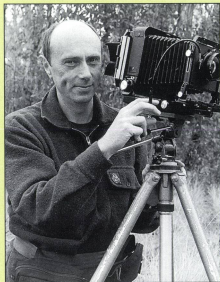
Burratorang and Cocks valleys in the southern Blue Mountains. The jets tear up the valley floors at up to 900 kilometres an hour, presumably above the legal minimum of 152 metres above the ground, 'bomb' a mock target, then shoot up into the sky. The company operates several flights every week, but hopes to run up to 1000 a year.

AC

▲ Act now

Write to the Federal Minister for Transport, John Anderson, and the Minister for the Environment, Robert Hill, at Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600. Ask them to ban low-level commercial jet flights over the Blue Mountains and other National Parks. Call for minimum heights which are several kilometres above the highest surface features to be set for commercial flights.

Photographer honoured



David Tatnall is currently making photographic records of Melbourne's Merri Creek grasslands which are threatened by a freeway proposal. Tatnall collection

The Melbourne-based photographer David Tatnall has recently been honoured for his lifelong work in environmental photography.

The Victorian National Parks Association at its recent annual meeting gave Honorary Life Membership to Tatnall for his 'outstanding contribution to nature conservation in Victoria through photography'. Tatnall has been a member of the Association for 30 years.

Parks Victoria has also recently awarded Tatnall the Kookaburra Award for Outstanding Individual Contribution to Victoria's Parks.

WOOD-CHIPS

* The Kenyan Government has announced its intention to excise more than 67 000 hectares from its forest reserves. It is anticipated that as many as ten further forest blocks may be excised from Kenyan reserves in addition to those currently proposed.


* Seven conservationists from Bogota were murdered while on a trip to the National Park of Puracé in February. It is believed that the murderers belong to paramilitary groups but no one has been charged in connection with the crimes as fear prevents witnesses from giving evidence.

* As reported in the Melbourne Sunday Age, a founding member of Greenpeace, David McTaggart, was killed in a car crash on 23 March. McTaggart, a Canadian by birth, was described as a 'charismatic, powerful and unique man who brought out the best in others'.

* Fourteen new species of wildlife have already been added to the nation's endangered species list in 2001, as reported in the Melbourne newspaper, the Herald Sun, on 5 April. Conservation groups welcome the inclusion of wildlife habitats for the first time. The inclusion protects habitats named on the list under Commonwealth law.

* Carnarvon Station, otherwise known as Bidjara country, in southern Queensland, has been bought by the Australian Bush Heritage Fund with the assistance of the Commonwealth Government's Natural Heritage Trust. (See the advertisement on page 16 of Wild no 80 and the insert in the same issue.) The new 590 square kilometre reserve is the home of seven endangered ecosystems and an abundance of plants, birds, reptiles and animals. Bush Heritage will include the indigenous custodians of the land in the management of the Aboriginal cultural sites on the property.

* 20 Things You Can Do For Birds is a guide compiled by Birds Australia, a volunteer-based organisation whose members are fighting for the survival of a number of native bird species. You'll receive a copy of the guide for free if you donate \$20 or more to Birds Australia. Phone 1300 730 075.

* The ACF is calling for nominations for the Peter Rawlinson Conservation Award 2001, which is presented in recognition of the outstanding voluntary contribution by a group or individual in conservation of the environment. The prize is a sculpted memento and \$3000 to spend on further environmental work. Details are available on the ACF's Web site: www.acfonline.org.au or telephone Michelle Matthews (03) 9926 6704. 

Readers' contributions to this department, including colour slides, are welcome. Typed items of less than 200 words are more likely to be published. Send them to the Editor, Wild, PO Box 415, Prahran, Vic 3181.

Some things
just keep
getting
better...



Bringing any product to the state where it is an absolute pleasure to use involves a long development process. The vision driving this is one of simple perfection. The raw materials must be of the highest quality. The necessary tools include comprehensive technical knowledge and hard-won experience.

In the end, satisfaction is guaranteed simply because there are no short cuts.



www.wildequipment.com.au

Distributed by Sea to Summit

(08) 9221 6617

Ice trek

A polar trek turned sour

Ice Trek

by Eric Phillips (HarperCollins, 2000, RRP \$29.95).

This book is an account of the 1998–99 trek to the South Pole by Jon Muir, Eric Phillips and Peter Hillary. It is also an examination of why the trio made the slowest trip to the South Pole in history, and why they failed to start the return journey.

In recounting their struggle towards the Pole, Phillips describes their daily progress and routine, and any contact they had with the outside world. He also explores the problems faced by the group: varying individual performances, interpersonal tension and conflict, and conflicting agendas—not to mention blizzards, illness and equipment failure.

Phillips tries to be fair in relating their collective story—he uses excerpts from the diaries of two members of the group as well as quotations from film footage.

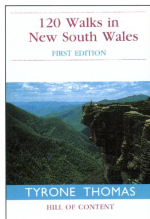
This book has it all—hardship, success, disappointment, conflict and joy. Read it for a fuller picture of what modern polar travel entails.

Naomi Peters

120 Walks in NSW

by Tyrone Thomas (Hill Of Content Publishing, 2000, RRP \$32.50).

Tyrone Thomas is a prolific writer of bushwalking guidebooks. This volume is an updated and expanded version of his 100



Bushwalks in NSW. To the author's credit, he has rewalked all the original walks as well as completing a new series. Each walk description includes the date when it was

last checked. As in the previous volume, most of the walks are day-trips although longer walks are included and suggestions are provided for extensions of some of the day walks. A great deal of the geographic area of New South Wales is included in the range of walks and there is sure to be material of interest to bushwalkers who wish to extend their knowledge of new areas. This book provides a very useful guide for visitors to the State.

David Noble

Discovering...Yengo and Dharug National Parks ...on Foot

by Anthony Dunk (Envirobooks, 2001, RRP \$12.95).

The title of this book does not describe its contents quite accurately: the book also covers Popran National Park. Many of the 25 or so day walks that are included would not be very familiar even to experienced, Sydney-based bushwalkers. This very welcome volume provides interesting track descriptions, often in the context of Aboriginal or early European settlement history. The book also contains suggestions for extended trips. Each description has photographs and a sketch map. There is a great deal to tempt the walker in this volume. Recommended.

DN

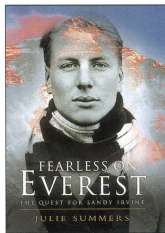
Fearless on Everest

by Julie Summers (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2000, [hard cover] \$59.95).

This book is an in-depth account of the short life of Andrew 'Sandy' Irvine, who died aged 22 on Mt Everest with George Mallory in 1924. Written by Irvine's great niece, it explores his background, the early history of exploration at Mt Everest, and the expedition in 1924.

The author attempts to explain why Irvine, an inexperienced climber and the youngest member of the 1924 Everest climbing party, was invited both to join the expedition and to make a bid for the sum-

mit with Mallory, who was regarded as one of the strongest alpinists at the time. Irvine was considered to be 'the best of all the new [1924] recruits'; he was strong and athletic,

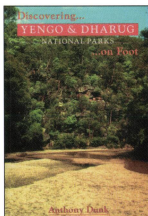


he showed mechanical ingenuity and qualities such as resilience and good humour.

In her effort to get inside Irvine's head, Summers draws upon a wide range of material, some of which was unearthed as recently as 1999.


This is a well-researched, generously illustrated and sensitively written book, which would be of interest even to armchair mountaineers.

NP



Hume and Hovell Walking Track

by Harry Hill (Land & Property Information, Bathurst, and New South Wales Department of Land & Water Conservation, Wagga Wagga, 2000, RRP \$22).

This is a set of six useful 1:100 000 strip maps that cover the entire length of the Hume and Hovell Walking Track from Cooma to Albury. On the reverse of the maps are excellent notes that not only describe the track but also give historical and other information. The accompanying index map provides an overview of the track and suggests shorter walks. A very useful resource. 

DN

Publications for possible review are welcome. Send them to the Editor, *Wild*, PO Box 415, Prahara, Vic 3181.

Wild Directories are the comprehensive reference point for Australasian outdoors-related businesses. For only \$39 an issue you can have your business listed here and reach a worldwide audience. Wild Directories—gateway to Australia's outdoors.

For information on listing your business in this regular feature, please contact Wild Publications Pty Ltd, PO Box 415, Prahran, VIC 3181. Phone (03) 9826 8482, fax (03) 9826 3787. Email wild@wild.com.au

Suppliers

National Mail-order

Alpsport
1045 Victoria Rd
West Ryde NSW 2114
Ph 9858 5844 or
1800 803 680

Birkenstock Boutique
Shop 13
Centenary Arcade
259 Collins St
Melbourne Vic 3000
Ph (03) 9654 5423

Canoes Plus Mail-order
140 Cotham Rd
Kew Vic 3101
Ph (03) 9816 9411

Eastern Mountain Centre
654B Glenferrie Rd
Hawthorn Vic 3122
Ph (03) 9818 1544

It's Extreme
32 Spence St
Cairns Qld 4870
Web site www.itsextrême.com

Kathmandu Pty Ltd Mail-order
PO Box 1191
Collingwood Vic 3066
Ph (03) 9383 3199 or
1800 333 484

K2 Base Camp
140 Wickham St
Fortitude Valley Qld 4006
Ph (07) 3854 1340

Melbourne Map Centre
PO Box 55
Hollingden Vic 3148
Web site www.melbmap.com.au

Mountain Equipment
491 Kent St
Sydney NSW 2000
Fax (02) 9264 2645

On Rope
11 Nelson Ave
Padstow NSW 2211
Ph (02) 9709 6299

Paddy Pallin Mail-order
Ph (02) 9525 6829 or
1800 805 398
Web site www.paddypallin.com.au

Patagonia Australia Pty Ltd
497 Kent St
Sydney NSW 2000
Ph 9264 2500 or
1800 066 625

Recreational Fabrics
PO Box 338
Ararat Vic 3377
Ph (03) 5356 6309

Rick White Signature Series
PO Box 112
Lowwood Qld 4311
Web site www.rwsgseries.com

Snowgum
Reply Paid 1343
PO Box 1343
Clayton South Vic 3169
Ph 1800 811 312

The Safety Network
Wilderness First Aid
Consultants
PO Box 917
Jindabyne NSW 2627
Ph (02) 6457 2339

Wild Publications Pty Ltd
PO Box 415
Prahran Vic 3181
Ph (03) 9826 8483

Australian Capital Territory

Belconnen Camping World
Shop 4
Caitley Crt
Belconnen 2617
Ph (02) 6253 2699

CSE Equipment & Ski
Camping Pty Ltd
18-24 Townshend St
Phillip 2606
Ph (02) 6282 3424

Jurkiewicz Adventure Sports
47 Wollongong St
Plymouth 2609
Ph (02) 6280 6033

Kathmandu Pty Ltd
20 Allara St
Canberra 2601
Ph (02) 6257 5926

Mountain Designs
6 Lonsdale St
Braddon 2601
Ph (02) 6247 7488

Paddy Pallin
11 Lonsdale St
Braddon 2601
Ph (02) 6257 3883

Snowgum
9 Lonsdale St
Braddon 2601
Ph (02) 6257 2250

New South Wales

Alpsport
1045 Victoria Rd
West Ryde 2114
Ph 9858 5844 or
1800 803 680

Bushcraft Equipment
29 Stewart St
Wollongong 2500
Ph (02) 4229 6748

Canoe and Camping Supplies
265A Victoria Rd
Gladesville 2111
Ph (02) 9817 5590

Coast Camping Centre
27 Lambrton Rd
Braidwood 2292
Ph (02) 4969 4460

Eastwood Camping Centre
Pty Ltd
3 Trelawney St
Eastwood 2122
Ph (02) 9858 3833

Great Outdoors Centre
Pty Ltd
82 Parramatta Rd
Lidcombe 2141
Ph (02) 9647 1488

Hangdog Climbing Gym
Pty Ltd
130 Auburn St
Wollongong 2500
Ph (02) 4225 8369

Kathmandu Pty Ltd
Mandarin Centre
Cnr Victor St and
Albert Ave
Chatswood 2067
Ph (02) 9410 0963

Kathmandu Pty Ltd
38 The Kingsway
Cronulla 2230
Ph (02) 9527 6600

Kathmandu Pty Ltd
Shop 35
Town Hall Arcade
Cnr Kent & Bathurst Sts
Sydney 2000
Ph (02) 9261 8901

Mountain Designs
490 Dean St
Albury 2640
Ph (02) 6021 0133

Mountain Designs
5/109 Dangar St
Arimdale 2350
Ph (02) 6771 5991

Mountain Designs
(factory outlet)
Shop 16
9 Spring St
Chatswood 2067
Ph (02) 9415 4566

Kathmandu Pty Ltd
Mandarin Centre
Cnr Victor St and
Albert Ave
Chatswood 2067
Ph (02) 9410 0963

Kathmandu Pty Ltd
38 The Kingsway
Cronulla 2230
Ph (02) 9527 6600

Kathmandu Pty Ltd
Shop 35
Town Hall Arcade
Cnr Kent & Bathurst Sts
Sydney 2000
Ph (02) 9261 8901

Mountain Designs
490 Dean St
Albury 2640
Ph (02) 6021 0133

Mountain Designs
5/109 Dangar St
Arimdale 2350
Ph (02) 6771 5991

Mountain Designs
(factory outlet)
Shop 16
9 Spring St
Chatswood 2067
Ph (02) 9415 4566

All Wild Directories are also on-line. They can be seen at www.wild.com.au

Mountain Designs
190 Katoomba St
Katoomba 2780
Ph (02) 4782 5999

Mountain Designs
Unit 2
Cnr King and National Park Sts
Newcastle 2300
Ph (02) 4962 3311

Mountain Designs
499 Kent St
Sydney 2000
Ph (02) 9267 3822

Mountain Equipment
72 Archer St
Chatswood 2067
Ph (02) 9419 6955

Mountain Equipment
106 George St
Hornsby 2077
Ph (02) 9477 5467

Mountain Equipment
491 Kent St
Sydney 2000
Ph (02) 9264 5888

New Anderson Maps
(Wholesale)
30 Fawcett St
Ryde 2112
Ph (02) 9878 2809

On Rope
11 Nelson Ave
Padstow 2211
Ph (02) 9709 6299

Paddy Pallin
3/10 Newton St
Auburn 2144
Ph (02) 9633 1113

Paddy Pallin Pty Ltd
Shop 5
62 Owen St
Huskisson 2540
Ph (02) 4441 7448

Paddy Pallin
Opposite Thredbo turn-off
Jindabyne 2627
Ph (02) 6456 2922
or 1800 623 459

Paddy Pallin
166B Katoomba St
Katoomba 2780
Ph (02) 4782 4466

Paddy Pallin
527 Kingsway
Miranda 2228
Sydney 2000
Ph (02) 9264 2685

Paddy Pallin
507 Kent St
Sydney 2000
Ph (02) 9264 2685

Patagonia Australia Pty Ltd
497 Kent St
Sydney 2000
Ph 9264 2500 or
1800 066 625

Single Rope Technique
9 Nelson Ave
Padstow 2211
Ph (02) 9796 3455

Snowgum
Shop 4, Charlestown
Convenience Centre
158 Pacific Hwy
Charlestown 2290
Ph (02) 4942 3337

Snowgum
77 Archer St
Chatswood 2067
Ph (02) 9412 2113

Snowgum
3 Gympie Bay Rd
Gympie 2227
Ph (02) 9524 1195

Snowgum
73 Macquarie St
Parramatta 2150
Ph (02) 9635 7715

Snowgum
447 Kent St
Sydney 2000
Ph (02) 9261 3435

Summit Gear
(In laneway)
88 Katoomba St
Katoomba 2780
Ph (02) 4782 3467

Tinderry Mountain Dried Foods
295 Calabash Rd
Tinderry 2620
Ph (02) 6230 8202

Torre Mountaincraft Pty Ltd
185 Moggill Rd
Taringa 4068
Ph (07) 3870 2699

South Australia

Acme Wall Company
171-174 West Tce
Adelaide 5000
Ph (08) 8410 5448

Annappurna Outdoor Shop
210 Rundle St
Adelaide 5000
Ph (08) 8223 4633

Mountain Designs
208 Rundle St
Adelaide 5000
Ph (08) 8232 0690

Paddy Pallin
228 Rundle St
Adelaide 5000
Ph (08) 8232 3155

Scout Outdoor Centre
192 Rundle St
Adelaide 5000
Ph (08) 8223 5544

The Wilderness Shop
Shop 13
Victoria Square Arcade
Adelaide 5000
Ph (08) 8231 0625

Northern Territory

Adventure Equipment
Darwin
41 Cavenagh St
Darwin 0800
Ph (08) 8941 0019

NT General Stores Pty Ltd
42 Cavenagh St
Darwin 0800
Ph (08) 8981 8242

Queensland

Adventure Camping
Equipment
11 Ross River Rd
Townsville 4812
Ph (07) 4775 6116

Adventure Equipment Cairns
133 Grafton St
Cairns 4870
Ph (07) 4031 2669

Adventure Gear
132 Wickham St
Fortitude Valley 4006
Ph (07) 3252 4744

Globe Trekker Adventure Gear
142 Albert St
Brisbane 4000
Ph (07) 3221 4476

It's Extreme
350 Shute Harbour Rd
Ariflie Beach 4802
Ph (07) 4948 2355

It's Extreme
32 Spence St
Cairns 4870
Ph (07) 4051 0344

It's Extreme
Chevron Renaissance
Gold Coast Hwy
Surfers Paradise 4217
Ph (07) 5504 7070

Kathmandu Pty Ltd
144 Wickham St
Fortitude Valley 4006
Ph (07) 3252 4508

K2 Base Camp
140 Wickham St
Fortitude Valley 4006
Ph (07) 3854 1340

Mountain Designs
105 Albert St
Brisbane 4000
Ph (07) 3221 6756

Mountain Designs
120 Wickham St
Fortitude Valley 4006
Ph (07) 3216 1866

Paddy Pallin
Adventure Equipment
138 Wickham St
Fortitude Valley 4006
Ph (07) 3252 4408

Torre Mountaincraft Pty Ltd
185 Moggill Rd
Taringa 4068
Ph (07) 3870 2699

Tasmania

Allgoods Pty Ltd
10 Rooke St
Devonport 7310
Ph (03) 6424 7099

Allgoods Pty Ltd
360 Main Rd
Glenorchy 7010
Ph (03) 6273 2933

Allgoods Pty Ltd
71 York St
Launceston 7250
Ph (03) 6331 3644

Kathmandu Pty Ltd
176 Liverpool St
Hobart 7000
Ph (03) 6236 9986

Mountain Designs
217 Taitland St
Devonport 7310
Ph (03) 6427 8699

Mountain Designs
74 Elizabeth St
Hobart 7000
Ph (03) 6234 3900

Mountain Designs
2/41 York St
Launceston 7250
Ph (03) 6334 0988

Paddy Pallin
76 Elizabeth St
Hobart 7000
Ph (03) 6231 0777

Paddy Pallin
110 George St
Launceston 7250
Ph (03) 6331 4240

The Wilderness Society Shop
Shop 8
The Galleria
33 Salamanca Pl
Hobart 7000
Ph (03) 6234 9370

Victoria

Alvors Snow Country Sports
115 Canterbury Rd
Heathmont 3135
Ph (03) 9720 4647

Arapiles Mountain Shop
69 Main St
Narimuk 3409
Ph (03) 5387 1529

Birkenstock Boutique
Shop 13
Centraway Arcade
259 Collins St
Melbourne 3000
Ph (03) 9654 5423

Bogong
78 Oxford St
Collingwood 3066
Ph (03) 9415 7599

Bogong
374 Little Bourke St
Melbourne 3000
Ph (03) 9600 0599

Canoe Plus Pty Ltd
140 Cotham Rd
Kew 3101
Ph (03) 9816 9411

Eastern Mountain Centre
654B Glenferrie Rd
Hawthorn 3122
Ph (03) 9818 1544

Kathmandu Pty Ltd
102 Whitehorse Rd
Blackburn 3130
Ph (03) 9878 3188

Kathmandu Pty Ltd
Warehouse Outlet
161 Smith St
Fitzroy 3065
Ph (03) 9419 1868

Kathmandu Pty Ltd
904 Nepean Hwy
Hampton East 3189
Ph (03) 9553 1644

Kathmandu Pty Ltd
Level 2
376 Little Bourke St
Melbourne 3000
Ph (03) 9642 1942

Melbourne Map Centre
740 Waverley Rd
Chadstone 3148
Ph (03) 9569 5472

Melbourne Map Centre
259 High St
Kew 3101
Ph (03) 9853 3526

Mountain Designs
(factory outlet)
132 Smith St
Collingwood 3066
Ph (03) 9417 5300

Mountain Designs
9/171-181 Moorabool St
Geelong 3220
Ph (03) 5229 6000

Mountain Designs
654A Glenferrie Rd
Hawthorn 3122
Ph (03) 9818 0188

Mountain Designs
373 Little Bourke St
Melbourne 3000
Ph (03) 9670 3354

Mountain Designs
Shop 1
Southside Central
37 Princes Hwy
Traralgon 3844
Ph (03) 5174 4877

NRE Information Centre
8 Nicholson St
East Melbourne 3002
Ph (03) 9637 8080

Paddy Pallin
8 Market St
Box Hill 3128
Ph (03) 9898 8596

Paddy Pallin
360 Little Bourke St
Melbourne 3000
Ph (03) 9670 4845

Paddy Pallin
88 Maroonhead Hwy
Ringwood 3134
Ph (03) 9879 1544

Patagonia Australia Pty Ltd
370 Little Bourke St
Melbourne 3000
Ph (03) 9642 2266

Sam Bear Outdoor Gear
225 Russell St
Melbourne 3000
Ph (03) 9663 2191

The Wilderness Shop Pty Ltd
969 Whitehorse Rd
Box Hill 3128
Ph (03) 9898 3742

Western Australia

MainPeak Pty Ltd
31 Jarrod St
Cottesloe 6011
Ph (08) 9385 2552

MainPeak Pty Ltd
415 Hay St
Subiaco 6008
Ph (08) 9388 9072

Mountain Designs
16 Stephen St
Bunbury 6230
Ph (08) 9791 9888

Mountain Designs
3 Queensgate Centre
William St
Fremantle 6160
Ph (08) 9335 1431

Mountain Designs
862 Hay St
Perth 6000
Ph (08) 9322 4774

Paddy Pallin
884 Hay St
Perth 6000
Ph (08) 9321 2666

Snowgum
581 Murray St
West Perth 6005
Ph (08) 9321 5259

New Zealand

Kathmandu Ltd
151 Queen St
Opposite Vulcan Lne
Auckland
Ph 64 9 309 4615

Kathmandu Ltd
36 Lichfield St
Christchurch
Ph 64 3 366 7148

Kathmandu Ltd
18 George St
Dunedin
Ph 64 3 479 2484

Kathmandu Ltd
34 Manners St
Wellington
Ph 64 4 801 8755

Adventure activities

New South Wales

Antarctic Horizons
Suite 1, Level 1
410-414 Oxford St
Bondi Junction 2022
Ph (02) 9387 1425

Australian Andean Adventures
Suite 1, Level 1
410-414 Oxford St
Bondi Junction 2022
Ph (02) 9387 1425

Australian School of Mountaineering
166B Katoomba St
Katoomba 2780
Ph (02) 4782 2014

Hangdog Climbing Gym
Pty Ltd
130 Auburn St
Wollongong 2500
Ph (02) 4225 8369

High 'n' Wild
Mountain Adventures
3/5 Katoomba St
Katoomba 2780
Ph (02) 4782 6224

Kosciuszko Adventures
Private Mail Bag no 5
Jindabyne 2627
Ph (02) 6456 2922 or
1800 623 459

Off the Beaten Treks
81 Hay St
Collaroy 2097
Ph (02) 9982 9252

Onda Travel
791 King Georges Rd
South Hurstville 2221
Ph (02) 9547 2155

Outland Expeditions Pty Ltd
Web site www.asott.nsw.edu.au
Ph (02) 4751 8711

Wildwater Adventures
754 Pacific Hwy
Boambee South
via Coffs Harbour 2450
Ph (02) 6653 3500

Queensland
international PARKTOURS
Binna Burra Rd
Beechmont 4211
Web site
www.parktours.com.au

South Australia

Ecotrek/Bogong Jack
Adventures
PO Box 4
Kangarilla 5157
Ph (08) 8383 7198

Peregrine Travel
Scout Outdoor Centre
192 Rundle St
Adelaide 5000
Ph (08) 8223 5905

Tasmania

Tasmanian Climbing
Company, The
PO Box 1
Bathurst
Hobart 7000
Ph (03) 6234 3575

Victoria

Adventure Plus
Mountaineering and
Rockclimbing
PO Box 153
Nattimuk 3409
Ph (03) 5387 1530

Bogong Jack Adventures
(Ecotrek)
PO Box 4
Kangarilla 5157
Ph (08) 8383 7198

Canoe Kayak Education
Australia
140 Cotham Rd
Kew 3101
Ph (03) 9817 5934

Canoeing Victoria
332 Banyule Rd
Viewbank 3084
Ph (03) 9459 4277

Kayakze Recreation
6 Adventure Consultants
3 Yamba St
Clifton Hill 3068
Ph (03) 9482 2433

Peregrine Adventures Pty Ltd
2nd Floor
258 Lonsdale St
Melbourne 3000
Ph (03) 9663 8611

The Hardrock Climbing
Company Pty Ltd
Unit 2
16 Vartan Crt
Nunawading 3131
Ph (03) 9894 4183

New Zealand
Adventure Consultants Ltd
PO Box 97
Wanaka 9192
Ph 64 3 443 8711

Alpine Guides (Aoraki) Ltd
PO Box 20
Mt Cook
Email
mtcook@alpineguides.co.nz

Alpine Recreation Ltd
PO Box 75
Lake Tekapo
Email alpre@voyager.co.nz

High Places Ltd
PO Box 30
Nelson
Web site www.highplaces.co.nz

HikingNewZealand.com
PO Box 93
Lyttelton 8033
Ph 1800 141 242

Mt Aspiring Guides
PO Box 345
Wanaka
Email alpinenz@xtra.co.nz

Queenstown Mountain
Guiding Ltd
PO Box 426
Queenstown
Web site
www.mountainguiding.co.nz

Papua New Guinea

New Guinea Expeditions
Lower Ground Floor
100 Clarence St
Sydney 2000
Ph (02) 9290 2055

CLASSIFIEDS

Wild Classifieds are the comprehensive trading post, whether you're selling old gear or promoting your club or business. Wild Classifieds are the cheap and effective way of getting your message across. For only \$1.50 a word (minimum \$15) prepaid, you will reach a worldwide audience. Wild Classifieds—gateway to Australia's outdoors.

Simply phone, fax, email or write to tell us the wording of your ad, pay for it with a cheque or credit card (over the phone with a credit card if you wish) and we will take care of the rest. Please contact Wild Publications Pty Ltd, PO Box 415, Prahran, Vic 3181. Phone (03) 9826 8482, fax (03) 9826 3787.

Email
wild@wild.com.au

Deadlines:
15 January (autumn issue),
15 April (winter),
15 July (spring),
8 October (summer).

Advertisements will be inserted in the first available issue. We reserve the right to alter or reject any advertisement and will not be held responsible for errors although every care is taken.

All advertisements are accepted on the express condition that they do not in any way infringe the Trade Practices Act or violate any existing copyright or trade mark.

CLIMBING WALLS

Climbing walls, Entre-Prises, the world leader in sport-climbing structures, can solve your climbing-wall needs regardless of the size of the project. Call Philip Toomer on (02) 9966 9080.

CLUBS

Almost Anything Outdoors. If Wild has inspired you to experience the wilderness, contact our club. Phone Manike on (03) 9852 7851 or visit our Web site:

http://almostanythingoutdoors.handelshap.com

Australian Sport Climbing Federation. The UIAA representative in Australia. Join now for \$30. Branches in most States. Membership forms available. PO Box 1043, Artarmon, 1570. Phone 0418 248 804, fax (02) 9818 7118.

Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. Day- and weekend walks etc. New members always welcome. Phone (03) 9518 0362, www.vicnet.net.au/~bushwalk

Walk with a club. VicWalk is the federation of more than 70 Victorian bushwalking clubs. (03) 9455 1876. http://www.vicnet.net.au/~vicwalk

333 Banyule Rd, Viewbank, 3084.

EDUCATION

The Australian School of Outdoor Technical Training can assist you to gain nationally recognised qualifications from beginner to accredited guide/trainer level, in all areas of outdoor recreation. ASOTT provides training from SRO 40299 Certificate IV in Outdoor Recreation in: All Rope and Paddles Sports, Vertical and Water Rescue, Remote Area First Aid, Navigation and Bushwalking, SAR and Emergency Response, and Climbing Gym Supervision. Non-VETAB training in Industrial Rope Access, Canyon Water Rescue and Aid Climbing. ASOTT also offers BSZ 40198 Certificate IV in Assessment and Workplace Training. Phone (02) 4751 8711, email info@asott.nsw.edu.au Web site www.asott.nsw.edu.au

EMPLOYMENT

Outdoor staff and employment online. On Track Management Services. www.otms.com.au info@otms.com.au (03) 5253 3130

GEAR

Badges. Genuine Aussie walking stick badges. Available at www.awsbfreeservers.com Phone (07) 3203 1112.

Dagger Australia. Manufacturer, importer and exporter of Dagger canoes and kayaks in Australia and the Pacific region. All enquiries are welcome. 140 Cotnam Rd, Vic 3101. Phone (03) 9816 9411, fax (03) 9817 9411. Dagger@canoeplus.com.au www.canoeplus.com.au

Fleece sold by the metre. Jung Ho Adventure Gear, PO Box 305, Aireys Inlet, 3231. Ph (03) 5289 7264.

Mossie nets for backpackers. Aussie made. Great for indoors or out. Super light, rugged, non-tearable black net. Keeps out all insects. Compacts into tiny bag. Single \$39.95. Double \$59.95. Our famous No Flees Nets for hats also available. Free call free brochure 1800 062 087.

Polartec jackets, tops and vests. Adults' and children's pre-cut sewing kits. Include zip, notions and guide sheet. Prices ranging from \$40-\$80 and tax colours to choose from. Can also be sewn for an extra \$30. Call (02) 6452 7476 or (02) 6452 6107.

Rad-Pads cloth menstrual pads. 100% cotton, very comfortable and reliable. Fast for years. Mail order and information: PO Box 786, Castlemeane, 3450. Phone (03) 5472 4922, fax (03) 5470 5766.

Recreational Fabrics. National mail order of ski-wear patterns and high-tech fabrics for the outdoors. We have 65+ fabrics including Polartec, Milar, Gore-Tex and Cordura. Enquiries: Phone (03) 5356 6309, fax (03) 5356 6322. PO Box 338, Ararat, Vic 3377.

Wanted—used gear. Tents; backpacks; sleeping bags; Gore-Tex; footwear; gloves; climbing gear. Xc. Sids. Any condition. Telephone 0438 823 865, email wildside@swiftnet.net

PUBLICATIONS

Alpine climbing instruction video. Learn the techniques and rope tricks required in mountaineering from this new video just released. Produced by mountain guide Charlie Hobbs of Southern Alps Guide and filmed in the Alpine Alps of NZ. Price \$435 plus postage. Order from www.mt.nz.com or fax +64 3 326 7518.

For sale. Wild magazines nos 1 and 7 and 14-33. Best offer. (02) 9918 2353.

Mountain books and magazines for sale as one lot: 35 books and 275 magazines including a complete set of Mountain magazine (missing only issues 5 and 6) and nine Mountain indexes. Phone or email Chris for details: (03) 9826 8482 (tbl), wild@wild.com.au

Mountain magazine. Almost complete set for sale with nine indexes. See previous ad.

Mountaineering and exploration books. Large stock for sale or let me search for you (I buy too). MJ Webster PO Box 143, Beechworth, Vic 3747. Phone (03) 5728 1428, email websterm@netc.net.au

Rock back issues. Only these back issues remain: nos 1 (guidebook-sized reproduction with plastic cover), 21 (Climbing instruction survey), 22 (Melbourne area guidebook), 23 (You Yarns guidebook), 24 (Werrabee Guide guidebook), 25 (New Zealand Alpine guidebook), 26, 27 (Thailand guidebook), 28, 29, 30 (Nowra update and New Climbs guidebook), 31, 32, 33 (The Rock and New Climbs guidebook), 34 (including guidebook-sized reproduction of Rock no 11, 35, 36, 37 (Wonderland Range guidebook offer), 38 (Mt Gervoy & the Acropolis and New Climbs guidebook), 39, 40, 41, 42 (Iberru update and New Climbs guidebook), 43, 44, 45 and 46. Phone (03) 9826 8482.

Rock. Set of the first seven issues (1978-86), in excellent condition. A rare find. \$95. Phone Chris (03) 9826 8482 (tbl).

The (Melbourne) Walker Journal. Copies of 1929-36, 1939, 1940-42, 1944 and 1990 issues wanted. Am willing to buy and/or swap I have spare copies as far back as 1937! Phone Chris (03) 9826 8482 (tbl) or email wild@wild.com.au

Walk journal. Copies of 1950 and 1960 issues wanted. Am willing to buy and/or swap I have spare copies as far back as 1953! Phone Chris (03) 9826 8482 (tbl) or email wild@wild.com.au

Wild. Single copies of the following previously sold-out issues have been unearthed and are available on a strictly first-come, first-served basis from Wild Publications. Nos 56, 58, 59 and 62 \$799 each. Some copies may be slightly damaged. Phone (03) 9826 8483.

REPAIRS

All repairs. We repair packs, sleeping bags (fixed, refilled and washed) and tents and poles, all clothing (including patching and tape-sealing Gore-Tex and other rainwear) and modifications. Venus Repair Workshop, Suite 36a, 104 Bathurst St, Sydney. (02) 9267 0706, venuski@bigpond.com

Big John's Retreads. Specialist rock-shoe repairs for over a decade. Resoles \$45/pair. Rand repairs \$10/pair. Return post-normal \$5/pair. Express \$6/pair, or \$8.75/two pairs. All

Katoomba, NSW 2780. Phone (02) 4782 6224, fax (02) 4782 6143, www.high-n-wild.com.au

Absolute Mongolia! Adventures in the Land of Blue Skies—trekking, hiking, mountaineering, camel- and horse treks. Beat the rush to this undiscovered land! www.gomongolia.com info@gomongolia.com Phone/fax +976 11 315 655.

Absolutely up-to-date instructor training. Nationally accredited outdoor leader qualifications. Flexible delivery. Distance education. Recognition of prior learning. WorldWild (07) 3833 4330, info@worldwild.com.au

Adventure Consultants Ltd. World-renowned expeditioning company operating in the Himalayas, South America, Antarctica, Indonesia and New Zealand. Guy Cotter and our internationally qualified guides share your spirit of adventure. Himalayan treks, high-altitude expeditions. Mountaineering instruction courses. Wilderness journeys. Professional leadership, small teams and complete logistical support. Phone +64 3 443 8711.

All Wild Classifieds are also on-line. They can be seen at www.wild.com.au

rubbers pre-mechanically bonded. Five Ten Stealth II, C4 Stealth, La Sportiva, Vibram and Boreal rubbers available in all thicknesses. Express mid-week service. Include all contact details. Send to Big John's Retreads, PO Box N122, Petheram North, 2049. Phone (0407) 205 771. Bigjohn@bigjohn.com.au

Remote Equipment Repairs. Specialising in repairs and alterations to packs, tents, sleeping bags (cleaning and down boosting), Gore-Tex rainwear, fleece and ski clothing, alloy tent poles, self-inflating camp rests, proofing tents and rainwear, zippers. Australia-wide service. Third floor, 373 Little Bourke St, Melbourne. 3000. Phone (03) 9670 2586, fax (03) 9670 7412.

Torre Mountaineering. All repairs—outdoors gear. Down jackets, clothing, sleeping bags, boots, repairs. 185 Mogill Rd, Taringa, Qld 4068. Phone (07) 3870 2699, www.torremountaineering.com.au

TRAVEL INSTRUCTION

Abseiling, Canyoning, Bush Skills Courses. Rock-climbing, Mountaineering, Corporate Training. Australia's leading adventure operator, owned and run by qualified mountain guides. Abseiling: beginners and advanced trips. Abseil Leaders' Certificate and Cliff Rescue Course. Canyoning: over 20 different trips, beginners to advanced. Bush Skills: survival, navigation, bush-food trips. Rock-climbing: beginners to advanced courses, private guiding. Mountaineering: Introduction Course. Kosciuszko. International guiding available. Contact HIGH N WILD, 3/5 Katoomba St.

fax +64 3 443 8733, www.adventure.co.nz info@adventure.co.nz

Adventure Guides Australia. Cross-country ski-touring, abseiling, caving and other adventures. Call David on 0419 280 614, agait@netc.net.au

Adventure holidays in Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. Ever dreamed of rafting the Zambezi, down surfing in Namibia, ballooning over the Serengeti or climbing the Inca Trail? These are just a few of the activities you can experience with Kumuka Expeditions, the leading overland adventure travel specialists for those 18-45. Call us free on 1800 804 277 for a brochure or browse www.kumuka.com.au

Alpine courses, Guided ascents, Expeditions. Mountain Works—Guiding. Queensland's original guiding company. We operate trips summer and winter. New Zealand, Nepal, Tibet, USA and Europe. So join us on an adventure of a lifetime! Mountain Works Ltd, PO Box 647, Queenstown 9197, New Zealand. Telephone/fax +64 3 442 7329. Free phone 0508 SUMMIT. Email mtmworks@queenstown.co.nz Web site www.mountainworks.co.nz

Alpine Recreation. Join us at Caroline Hut, the only private hut in Mt Cook National Park, for the three-day Ball Pass Crossing. New Zealand's highest guided trek; or for a four-day introductory climbing course. Climbs Mt Cook or Tasman with one of our experienced NZMGA guides. Gottlieb Braun-Edwards (LIAMG), Box 75, Lake Tekapo, New Zealand.

Phone 64 3 680 6736, fax 64 3 680 6765, email alpine@voyager.co.nz www.alpinecreation.co.nz

Back-country safety. Are you seeking the best back-country safety training for Australian conditions? Designed for snowboarders, skiers and bushwalkers wanting to explore the back country safely. Two-day course on snow (not mountain) in August/September 2001. Phone/fax: (02) 6457 2339. Email: snow@wildernessfind.com.au The Safety Network, Lindabyne.

Brigitte and Jon Muir's Adventure Plus. September 2001, outdoor adventure with Jon; November 2001, virgin peaks in Antarctica with Brigitte; January 2002, last of the world's virgin Pole with Brigitte; March 2002, Victorian Alps with Brigitte; end April 2002, Khumbu traverse with Brigitte. Also mountaineering expeditions, lectures, book and photo sales. Check www.adventureplus.com.au Phone +61 3 5387 1530, fax +61 3 5387 1458.

Challenging bushwalks. Experience solitude and inspiration in some of the most remote wilderness areas in the Alpine National Park. Local guides share their love and knowledge of the Alps, the flora and fauna. Crippindale High Country Tours, PO Box 69, Bruthen, Vic 3885. Phone (03) 5157 5556.

Coral Sea Kayaking—paddling to uninhabited tropical islands in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. From three- to six-day hikes over our seven-day Hinchinbrook Island Wilderness Expedition. We can show you the best sea kayaking in tropical North Queensland. Small groups led by professionals. Sea-kayak hire is available for experienced paddlers. PO Box 292, Mission Beach, Qld 4852. Phone/fax 61 7 4068 9154, email coralseakayaking@bigpond.com Web site www.corseakayaking.com

Hike around the Yarra Valley, Victoria, to Bogong, Nepal and beyond. Level 1, first-time hikers. One- or two-day walks through National Parks, led by experienced tour guides. Day packs needed, all food and gear supplied. Level 3, two-day hikes through mountainous terrain, all gear carried. Level 4, challenging five-day hikes for the experienced over the Bogong Wilderness. Special introductory offers until December. Join our small group to Nepal, October, for under \$2000. Fully escorted. English-speaking guide. For brochure and info: Paul Weller Adventures, phone (03) 5964 7210, email weller@acnet.au www.pwadventures.com

Mr Aspiring Web site: Contains a wide range of treks, climbs and courses. Visit our Web site for information, mountain news and photo gallery. www.mountainrec.co.nz Email geoff@mountainrec.co.nz

Nepal. A photographer's paradise. Himalayas. Everest Camp trek March 2002 accompanied by photographer Richard White. Phone 081 9781 1280 for more

information on trekking with the Melbourne Sherpas or <http://travel.to/kathmandu>

Nepal wilderness treks. Let us take you to some of Nepal's most spectacular and remote areas. 2001 fully escorted departures—small personalised groups.
Everest/Manaslu/Annapurna/Bhutan/Tibet. October/November departures. For brochure and further details, contact (02) 9997 7442. Email tayloradventure@hotmail.com www.tayloradventure.com

New Zealand—PYO Plan Your Own trip. Customised itineraries and bookings for your independent visit. Specialists in NZ outdoors: hiking, kayaking, mountain biking, whale watching, alpine climbing... Advice and reservations for accommodation, activities, flights, travel, car and campervan hire. Tell us your travel plans and we can convert them into a working itinerary. Also group trips worldwide including: NZ, Africa, Iceland, Himalayas and Latin America. Contact us for brochures and trip notes. High Places Ltd, PO Box 30, Nelson, NZ. Phone +64 3 540 3208, email highpl@ts.co.nz www.highplaces.co.nz

Paddle Vanuatu. Call now for winter trips in 2001. Six to 16 days sea kayaking the outer islands of Vanuatu. Snorkelling, volcanoes, local villages, bungalows and beach camping. Departures June to October. 6, 7, 11, 12 or 16 days. Call for details. Wildwater Adventures, Coffs Harbour, phone (02) 6653 3500, fax (02) 6653 3900.

Rafting. Classic wilderness white water available all year. Four days on the glorious Nymboda River,

northern NSW, exploring the wilderness of Nymboda-Binderay National Park. One- and two-day trips also available, plus Gwydir River two days. Twenty years' experience. Quality guaranteed. Call Wildwater Adventures, Coffs Harbour. (02) 6653 3500, fax (02) 6653 3900. www.wildwateradventures.com.au

Rafting in north Queensland next winter. Seven-day wilderness trips on the magnificent Herbert River. Limited departures May to July 2001. Abseil in, helicopter out. Call for details. Wildwater Adventures, Coffs Harbour. Phone (02) 6653 3500, fax (02) 6653 3900.

Sea kayak in Fiji, Tonga, Australia, Antarctica and the high Arctic. Fully catered camping and ship-based adventures in both the tropical and polar worlds, featuring small groups, diverse cultures, remote destinations and very experienced guides. Contact Southern Sea Ventures for our 2001 brochure. Phone (02) 9999 0541, fax (02) 9999 1357, email cventure@tpe.com.au www.southernseaventures.com

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. An exciting adventure- and personal-challenge programme for those aged 14–25. Use your outdoor activities as part of your Bronze, Silver or Gold. Details: phone (03) 9412 6685.

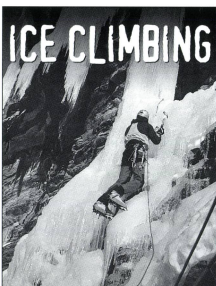
Trek Nepal, Sikkim, Darjeeling and Bhutan. Fully escorted treks to suit all levels—small groups only. October 2001: Arun Valley to Gokyo Ri. 22-day trek from 400 metres to 5400 metres through lush tropical valleys to the 'top of the world'. \$2850 including four nights hotels.

November 2001: Unique, 11-day cultural/trekking tour to Sikkim, Darjeeling and Bhutan. Experience some of the last-remaining unspoiled regions of the world. Approximately \$4400 ex Kathmandu. Safety first—accredited instructor's certificate held in wilderness first aid—portable altitude chamber carried on all treks. Contact us now for details of these and other available treks. Off The Beaten Treks. Phone (02) 9982 9252 or info@offthebeatenpaths.com (02A001576).

Trek Nepal at affordable prices with experienced Australian guides (for example, 17 days, December, \$2985). Also India, Africa, Vietnam. Ask for Hans or Lynda at Onda Travel, licence 2TA003055, ABN 91 003 873 130. Phone (01) 9547 2155 or (02) 9661 8928 (ah).

Wilderness First Aid Consultants. Do you take groups into remote or wilderness environments? Do you have adequate first aid skills? We offer two great courses, Australia-wide. Contact us for details: PO Box 917, Lindabyne, NSW 2627. Fax/phone (02) 6457 7339, email wfac@wfac.aust.com

www.mtcook.com New Zealand mountaineering and ski mountaineering with the experts, Southern Alps Guiding. Personalised service on alpine instruction, guided ascents, ski mountaineering. UIAGM/NZMGA certified guides. Contact Charlie Hobbs, phone 64 3 435 0890, fax 64 3 326 7518, www.mtcook.com



NEW - ice climbing courses

Winter 2001: 16-20 Jul, 23-27 Jul, 30 Jul-3 Aug, 6-10 Aug
NZ\$1400 per person ex Queenstown, New Zealand.

Get cranking this winter - with our top UIAGM/NZMGA mountain guides and the best of New Zealand ice!

International treks and expeditions mountaineering instruction wilderness journeys himalaya antarctica new zealand south america
Contact us today for a copy of our new brochure...



Guy Cotter
Adventure Consultants Ltd
PO Box 97, Wanaka 9152
New Zealand. Ph +64 3 443 8711
Fax +64 3 443 8733
Email: info@adventure.co.nz

www.adventure.co.nz

perfect one day, blizzard the next



Extreme weather changes can place even the most experienced of adventurers in a life threatening situation.

While there is no substitute for a well prepared expedition or common sense these pocket sized products give the adventurer two important advantages. Accurate GPS navigation and the ability to call for help in a genuine emergency.

ETREX SUMMIT GPS

The World's smallest GPS uses up to 12 satellites for fast accurate positioning even under heavy foliage. 500 waypoints with name and graphic symbol. With TracBack™ you can navigate in both directions any of the 10 possible saved track logs. The SUMMIT includes a built-in magnetic compass, barometric altimeter and elevation computer.

The unit will automatically record and store both barometric and elevation data over a 12 hour period.
12 Month Garmin Warranty.

MT310 PERSONAL EPIRB

Cospas/Sarsat satellite compatible, simultaneous 121.5/243 MHz operation with 48 hour minimum continuous transmission time. Plus a combined beeper/flasher alarm for both self-test and operate modes. Meets CASA regulations for aviation and marine ASINZ standards 4330/1995. Designed and made in Australia.

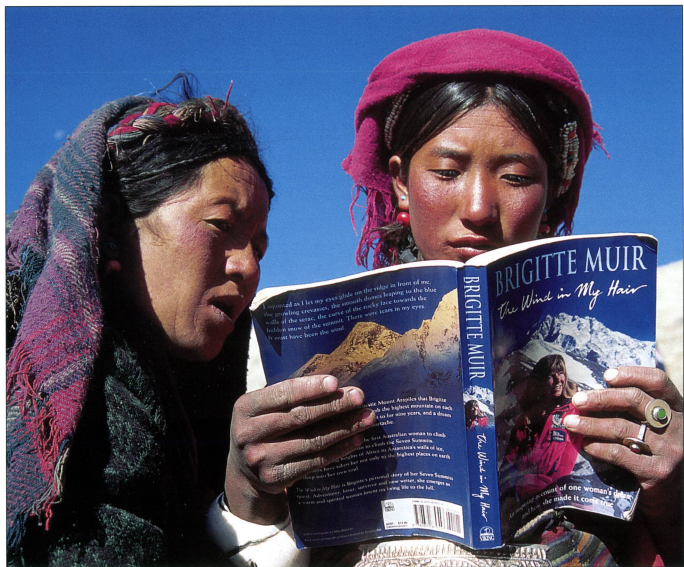
5 Year GME Warranty.

For further information visit our Website: www.gme.net.au



GARMIN **GME** **Electrophone**

SYDNEY (02) 9844 6666
BRISBANE (07) 3278 6444
PERTH (08) 9455 6744
MELBOURNE (03) 9590 9333
ADELPHIDE (08) 8204 8663
AUCKLAND (09) 274 0958



Brigitte gets the once-over from the experts. Janet Gahan & Zac Zaharias

Wild welcomes slides for this page; payment is at our standard rate. Send them to the Editor, *Wild*, PO Box 415, Prahran, Vic 3181.

THERE'S A NEW TOP RUNG ON THE OLD EVOLUTIONARY LADDER



Quest

North Rim

Challenger

TEVA WRAPTOR™ TECHNOLOGY

The key to Teva's unsurpassed fit is the Fusion Arch™ System. A midfoot strap travels through a molded shank plate and completely around the foot, locking it to the topsole. This virtually eliminates friction-causing movement within the boot.



TEVALUTION

Although it's only been 16 years since the first Teva sport sandal stepped out of the Colorado River, they've really come a long way. In fact, the new Summit Series is a whole new species - Teva's most advanced sandal technology perfectly adapted to the harshest terrain and cleverly camouflaged as a hiking boot.

Teva
COME OUT AND PLAY

ENGINEERED TO ILLUMINATE YOUR WORLD



TIKKA

TIKKA, a new generation in headlamp design. LED technology, half the weight and bulk of any headlamp on the market. Broad, bright, white beam has incredible 150 hours of burn time. "So tiny, you can't afford to leave home without it." 70 gm.



MICRO

MICRO, small and lightweight with a directable and focusable beam. The MICRO is a great, economical lamp for around the camp-site, car, or Portaledge. 100 gm.



SAXO AQUA

SAXO AQUA, easily converts to a hand-held flashlight with a long-lasting 6-volt power supply. Completely waterproof and fitted with an automatic locking switch, and krypton bulb. 138 gm.



ZOOM

ZOOM, great for night travel, perfectly balanced with a directable and focusable beam via Petzl's patented rotating bezel. Our all-time best seller. 170 gm.



ZOOM ZORA

ZOOM ZORA is a new version of the Zoom, with a 6-volt power supply for a longer burn time. 185 gm.



ZOOM ZORA BELT

A long-lasting light, with an extension lead and battery pack which can be attached to your belt, reducing the weight on your head. 215 gm.



DUO

Double light sources for flexibility, with one standard bulb for economical use, one halogen for route finding. Water resistant and ideal for wet-weather sports, or professional use. 200 gm.

PETZL

PETZL

Distributed by Spelean P/L. Call 1800 634 853 for your nearest stockist. <http://www.spelean.com.au> <http://www.petzl.com>